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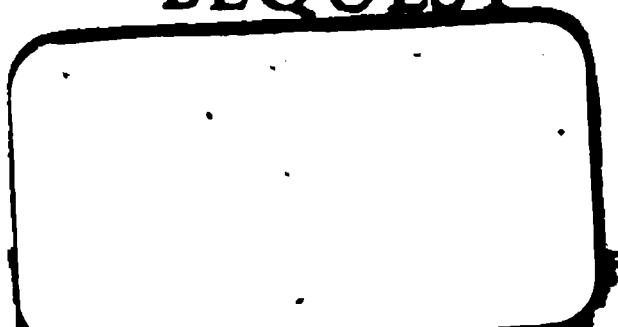
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JEREMIAH,
AND
LAMENTATIONS.

A
NEW TRANSLATION;

WITH
NOTES
CRITICAL, PHILOLOGICAL, AND EXPLANATORY.

By BENJAMIN BLAYNEY, B. D.
RECTOR OF POLSHOTT IN WILTS, AND FORMERLY FELLOW
OF HERTFORD COLLEGE, OXFORD.

THE SECOND EDITION.

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1810.

J. RITCHIE,
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ADVERTISEMENT.

BLAYNEY'S Translation of Jeremiah, together with the Notes that accompany it, are too well known to those conversant in biblical criticism, to stand in need of any recommendation in this place. The value of this work has been long justly appreciated by those who have been in the habit of consulting it. Of these indeed the number has been probably much less than it otherwise would have been, from the high price of the former edition, and the difficulty that was frequently experienced in procuring a copy of it. It was this consideration, in connexion with the intrinsic value of the work, that first suggested the idea of publishing the present edition, and thus of presenting so useful a volume to the public in a cheaper and more accessible form. The Editors conceive they do no trifling service to those who are employed in the study of the word of God, while they put into their hands a valuable work of sacred criticism at half the price at which it could formerly be procured. They have only farther to notice, that particular care has been taken to make the present edition as accurate as possible. The errata that had crept into the former edition have been corrected, and the indexes have been carefully examined, and accommodated to this new form of the work. One of the indexes accompanying this publication, they conceive, adds considerably to its value, viz. that which contains a list of all the texts, arranged according to the books of Scripture, which are more or less explained in the course of the author's Notes and Illustrations. By this means, the inquirer into the meaning of Scripture, can at one glance discover whether any illustration of a particular text is to be found in the work to which such an index is attached. Into this part of the former edition, several errors had found their way, which were not noticed in the errata. These, it has been the study of the Editors, in the present impression, carefully to correct.

TO THE
RIGHT REVEREND AND HONOURABLE
S H U T E
LORD BISHOP OF SARUM
AND CHANCELLOR OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER
OF THE GARTER.

MY LORD,

HONOURED long ago by your Friendship, and distinguished of late among the first, by your voluntary and unsolicited Patronage, it would ill become me to appear in public without paying You my tribute of Gratitude, and expressing my warmest acknowledgments for Favours, rendered doubly obligatory by the mode of conferring them. But there will appear a peculiar propriety in the introduction of your Lordship's Name at the head of this Work, when it is known that it was You, who first prompted the Author to undertake, and afterwards encouraged him, perhaps too justly diffident of his own Abilities, to persevere in it. If therefore there should be found any thing useful or valuable in these Sheets, it must all be placed to the account of Your unwearied zeal in recommend-

DEDICATION.

ing and enforcing, upon principle, the cultivation of Sacred Literature. It would be arrogance in me to imagine, that my weak Voice could have any influence in guiding the Public Applause. But the World will daily receive the most substantial proofs, that your Lordship comes not behind the most illustrious of Your Predecessors in any of the Qualifications, which constitute or adorn the Character of a truly Christian Bishop. That You may long live to signalize those Virtues, which must necessarily tend to advance the Credit of our most Holy Religion, confirm the Happiness of Your Diocese, and greatly endear You both to God and Man, is the unfeigned and ardent Prayer of,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's

most dutiful

and most devoted Servant

BENJAMIN BLAYNEY.

PRELIMINARY DISCOURSE.

WHEN it was first proposed to me to revise the Text of Jeremiah, and to attempt a new Translation of it, with Notes and Illustrations, after the manner of the Bishop of London's Isaiah, it appeared to me a matter of so much difficulty and importance, as justly to merit the most mature deliberation. Though sincerely disposed to pay all due deference to the authority of my friends, and earnestly desirous, at a time when I had no immediate call in the line of my profession, to find myself engaged in some worthy occupation, whereby I might have a chance of promoting the glory of God, and the spiritual good of mankind; it could not but occur to me, that in following the plan of an Author of such distinguished eminence, from a disparity of talents a most mortifying disparity might reasonably be apprehended in the execution. On the other hand, it seemed much to be regretted, that a design of such singular utility, and for which such ample materials had been lately provided, should at once be relinquished and laid aside. The learned and venerable Prelate, with whom it began, it was but too well known,

known, had neither leisure nor health to prosecute it farther. And were it necessary to wait, till another of equal qualifications should take it up, it were possible that many generations might elapse before the world might enjoy the wished for satisfaction. But from inferior abilities, some at least, though not equal, benefit might arise; and this in particular, that whilst the thoughts and attention of mankind were turned upon the subject, the discussion of such errors and mistakes as would be committed, might gradually tend to an elucidation and discovery of the truth. And therefore upon these principles, when I found no other person likely to stand forth, I determined at length to comply with what had been recommended to me; trusting to the candour of the public, which I had heretofore experienced; and claiming no other indulgence, than, out of regard to my good intentions, to have my faults animadverted on with that gentleness and benignity, which every liberal minded person will be inclined to exercise towards others, because he must naturally wish to be so treated himself.

In regard then to the general design of this work, and the mode of its execution, I shall easily be dispensed with from entering into any minute detail, considering how fully it has been set forth and explained at large in the Bishop of London's Preliminary Dissertation. I have not had the vanity to think I could improve upon his plan; my aim has been to keep it constantly in view, and to follow it as closely, and with such success, as I could. It is obvious how much benefit I must have derived from having travelled under the directions of so excellent a guide; from
having

having found the principles and rules of sacred criticism so precisely laid down, and marked out for my observance; and from having seen them so judiciously applied and reduced to practice. With my acknowledgments on this score, I ought perhaps to offer an apology to his Lordship for the freedom of my comments on some few of his particular criticisms. But as I am sure he will readily acquit me of any disrespectful motive; so I am persuaded he would look upon it as an undue and undesirable act of complaisance, were I in deference to his authority induced to suppress, what appeared to me, at least with some shew of reason, to place any passage of Holy Scripture in a clearer or better point of view.

As concerning the present defective state of the Hebrew Text, the various kinds of mistakes that have found their way into it, and the ordinary sources of its corruption; the probability of rectifying many of those mistakes by the help of ancient Versions and Manuscripts; the history of those Versions, and their absolute or comparative value; the number of Manuscripts which have been lately collated, and the antiquity, character, and authority of them respectively; all these points have been so thoroughly examined, and represented with so much learning, skill, and precision, in the before-mentioned Preliminary Dissertation of the Bishop of London, and in Dr Kennicott's General Dissertation prefixed to his Edition of the Hebrew Bible with the Collations, that I have nothing new to offer concerning them. The Reader, who is desirous of entering into these matters with a clear and comprehensive view, cannot do better than
consult

consult those Authors in the places referred to. He will thence be enabled to form just and reasonable expectations of what may be done by a proper use of the means above specified; and to judge, whether they have been duly and advantageously applied in the present performance towards restoring the text of Jeremiah. But he will also perceive, what he will undoubtedly find cause to lament, that cases after all will sometimes happen beyond the reach of any such assistance; mistakes of so early a date, as to be prior to any Version or MS. either now known, or hereafter likely to fall into our hands. On those occasions, we can have no resource but in conjectural criticism; a ground which requires to be trod with the nicest circumspection, lest haply we should be led astray into the wild roving of a luxuriant fancy. But in cases otherwise desperate, there is no reason why a remedy of this kind should not be tried, provided only that it be administered with all the prudence and caution that is requisite. On the contrary I am persuaded, that we shall sometimes find instances of conjectural emendations so judiciously made, and so well supported by indirect at least and circumstantial evidence, as to work a conviction of their truth not inferior to that, which would arise from their having been found in Copies of the best note and most approved authority.

In discharging the office of a Translator I have not only endeavoured faithfully to represent the general sense of the original, but also to express each word and phrase by a corresponding one, as far as the genius of the two languages would admit; and where
necessity

necessity obliged me to vary a phrase, I have usually subjoined in a Note the literal rendering, in order to shew the equivalence of that which was substituted in its stead. At the same time, hoping by all these means to bring the Reader to a better acquaintance with the Author's manner, I have been no less attentive to imitate, as far as possible, the structure and conformation of the sentences, more especially in the poetical parts of the book, where so much seems to depend upon it. But in the metrical division of the lines or verses, I fear I cannot always claim the merit of being exactly right. In some instances the case is clear, and capable of being ascertained with the greatest precision ; as in the Acrostic or Alphabetical Poems, and wherever there is a plain and evident parallelism in the construction of the sentences. But where there is neither Acrostic nor Parallelism, there may be, and assuredly often is, Versification, if we may credit the similarity of diction, and other marks of discrimination. Nor can we have the least doubt but that this versification consisted in a Rhythm, formed by a determinate number of duly proportioned syllables, proceeding in a regular order, so as to strike the ear with a harmonious cadence. But as the genuine pronunciation of the Hebrew language has been long ago irretrievably lost, even so far as to leave nothing certain as to the number of syllables in a word, much less as to their quantity or accent, this harmony of cadence of course is to us no more, nor can be of the least assistance in pointing out the just measure of the verse. In those cases therefore, where neither the initial letter, nor the constructive form or
sense

sense of the passage afforded any more probable means of distinguishing, I have adopted an appeal to the eye, instead of to the ear, upon the following principle of analogy. Having remarked a certain determinate medium in the length of those verses, whose measure was capable of being ascertained, with a variation of seldom more than a syllable or two either in excess or defect, I have divided the rest according to the like proportion, confining the variation also, with a due respect to circumstances, within the same limits. A method, it must be owned, sufficiently inaccurate and precarious, and admitted only because there appeared little chance of a better. It is therefore notified that no one may be drawn in to lay a greater stress upon it than it deserves.

Having by a distance of residence been precluded a ready intercourse with some friends, whose learning and judgment might have stood me in good stead, I have fewer acknowledgments to make, than I could wish, for assistance lent me on this occasion. Upon the death of my truly amiable and greatly respected friend, Dr. David Durell, late Principal of Hertford College in Oxford, his papers, containing his manuscript remarks on the Prophets, were by the favour of his Brother, Thomas Durell, Esq. of the island of Jersey, left in my hands. They are rough materials, which he had laid in for the carrying on of a work, designed to be a Continuation of the Critical Remarks already published by him on those parts of Holy Scripture, called the HAGIOGRAPHIA; and abound with that erudition, good sense, candour and piety, for which the Author in his lifetime was so eminently

ly

ly distinguished. But a long and severe illness, which followed immediately after his last publication, and terminated at length in his death, incapacitated him for any further literary attempt. Out of these remarks, I have selected such as fell within the compass of my design, and seemed most satisfactory to me; and have faithfully subjoined his name to every one of them. Others there undoubtedly are, which would have done no discredit to the Author's ingenuity; but as I am morally sure they would not have passed his second review, without undergoing some material alteration from him, I could not think myself justified in bringing them before the public in their present indigested and imperfect state.

To the Reverend Mr. Woide, one of the principal Librarians of the British Museum, and of the most respectable character for his profound literature, I am under great obligations for having had the goodness to collate for me, through the Book of Jeremiah, the Manuscript Copy of the Prophets of the version of the LXX, now in the British Museum, marked 1 B 11. and often quoted by the title of MS. Pachom. on account of its having belonged to Pachomius, a Patriarch of Constantinople in the beginning of the sixteenth Century. This Manuscript having been pointed out and much recommended in the Bishop of London's Preliminary Dissertation, I was very desirous of applying it to my own use; and therefore, by the intervention of a common friend, took the liberty of requesting the assistance of Mr. Woide, as I was not in a situation to collate it myself. To his honour let it be known, he not only hearkened to my request,

request, though I was personally a stranger to him, with the most liberal complaisance, but performed it, amidst a multiplicity of engagements, which might well have pleaded his excuse, with such punctuality of attention, and such cordial benevolence, as must for ever oblige me to remember him, as long as I live, with the most respectful esteem and gratitude. It is with pleasure I congratulate the public on their being about to receive from the hands of this learned gentleman a printed Exemplar of the Alexandrian MS. of the New Testament, copied from the Original with such exact imitation, as to extend and perpetuate even to distant ages the Use of this precious Relic; enriched besides, as I am given to understand, with many excellent and valuable observations of the Editor.

It may seem matter of surprise, that knowing, as I must have done, of the valuable Notes of the late Archbishop Secker on the Bible, deposited according to the directions of his Will in the Library of the Palace at Lambeth, I should have neglected to avail myself of them, till after the greatest part of this work was printed off. But the truth is, I have no such neglect or want of curiosity to reproach myself with. On the contrary, in the summer of the year 1782, before any part of these sheets was sent to press, I took a journey from the place of my residence to London, for no other purpose than to consult those Manuscripts. Unfortunately, when I came there, I learned that the Archbishop was just gone from home; that the MSS. in question were kept under his immediate custody; and that, if I would see them, I must necessarily

sarily wait his return; which would have delayed me longer than the circumstances of my affairs at home would have allowed of my absence. Thus disappointed, I was obliged to go back, and to enter upon the measures for printing my book, postponing the examination of the Manuscripts till a more favourable opportunity. At length in November last I renewed my application, and was gratified with the object of my wishes by the permission of his Grace the present Lord Archbishop of Canterbury; whose goodness to me upon this occasion, as upon many others, I am bound to acknowledge with the greatest thankfulness. The principal of these Observations, as they came so late, I have been obliged to insert in an Appendix; and have added some further remarks of my own, chiefly such as suggested themselves on perusing the Manuscripts.

I should still think myself guilty of a most unpardonable omission, were I not at this time to seize the opportunity of testifying my respect for the memory of another lately deceased friend, the learned Dr Kennicott I mean, whose name the Hebrew Critic ought ever to hold in the highest veneration. I account it a singular honour and happiness to myself to have conversed familiarly with him, and to have derived much solid information and improvement from that fund of knowledge, which his laborious researches enabled him to lay in, and which the friendliness of his mind disposed him freely to communicate. Of such a nature were my personal obligations to him. His public merit was more conspicuous; being attested by his astonishing Collation of near seven hundred

Hebrew and Samaritan MSS. and printed Editions of the most early date, anxiously sought out through all the different quarters of the Globe, and examined with the nicest care : a work, of which he was the first that had the penetration to discern the important utility ; and which he was at length fortunate enough, after a course of twenty years of indefatigable application and industry, to bring to a happy conclusion,, under the patronage of the greatest names in Europe. From this ample magazine what invaluable stores may be extracted, every day's experience tends to furnish more convincing and indubitable proofs. The various readings that are produced and applied in the Notes which follow, though not all of equal importance, will many of them, I trust, be deemed far from immaterial. But let me indulge a hope, that the time is not very far distant, when the task of bringing forward these materials to their proper use will not be left, as hitherto it hath been, altogether in the hands of a few well intentioned individuals, but will be undertaken on a more extensive plan by a select assembly of the most learned and judicious Divines, commissioned by public authority to examine into the state of the Hebrew Text, to restore it as nearly as possible to its primitive purity, and to prepare from it a new Translation of the Scriptures in our own language for the public service. This has long been most devoutly wished by many of the best friends to our Religion and our established Church, who, though not insensible of the merit of our present Version in common use, and justly believing it to be equal to the very best that is now extant in any language, ancient or modern, sorrowfully

ly confess, that it is still far from being so perfect as it might and should be; that it often represents the errors of a faulty Original with too exact a resemblance; whilst on the other hand it has mistaken the true sense of the Hebrew in not a few places; and sometimes substituted an interpretation so obscure and perplexed, that it becomes almost impossible to make out with it any sense at all. And if this be the case, shall we not be solicitous to obtain a remedy for such glaring imperfections? Shall we content ourselves with saying, that neither the errors which have crept into the Original Text, nor those which deform the Translation, have fallen upon any essential points either of doctrine or morals; and therefore there is no great damage to be apprehended from their continuance? The premisses may be true; but are we equally sure with respect to the conclusion? Can we with certainty foresee all the mischief that may possibly and eventually result from an error, of what kind soever, wilfully retained in a book of such high and universal importance? Are we not taught to believe, that all and every part of Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is, according to the intention of the Donor, profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*? But can any Scripture be profitable except it be understood? And if not rightly understood, may not the perversion of it be proportionably dangerous? Or is it nothing to deprive the people of that edification, which they might have received, had a fair and just exposition been substituted instead of a false one? Do we not know the advantage

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* 2 Tim. iii. 16.

tage that is commonly taken by the enemies of revelation, of triumphing in objections plausibly raised against the divine word upon the basis of an unsound Text or wrong Translation? And though these objections have been refuted over and over again by the most solid argumentation of private Religionists, do they not still continue to ring them in the ears of the vulgar and unlettered Christian, as if they were owned and admitted to be unanswerable? So that it seems requisite for the honour of God and his true religion, that these stumbling blocks should be removed out of the way as soon as possible by an act of solemn and public disavowal. Influenced by these and such like considerations, his Swedish Majesty hath already set the example, by commanding a new Revisal and more perfect Translation of the Scriptures to be immediately begun in his dominions. And, which may more excite our wonder, we are credibly informed, that a similar work is set on foot in our own language, at the sole expence of a single Nobleman of princely spirit, for the use of the English Roman-Catholics. And shall the British nation, so deservedly famous throughout the world for its magnificence and public-spirited exertions, be less active and forward than others upon so glorious an occasion? Shall the Church of England, ever accustomed to rank with the foremost in learning and piety, be the last to hold forth to her members those sacred writings in their utmost perfection and purity, the free use of which she has ever taught them to consider as the most invaluable of their privileges? Or will our Governors, after having in their private capacities contributed so largely above all others to the means

means of reformation, stop short on a sudden, and refuse to give a public sanction to the application of them? Why are we to suppose it? Upon the Piety and Goodness of our gracious Sovereign we may ever rely with the firmest assurance, for his hearty concurrence in any measure, which may tend to advance the interests of Religion, and the welfare of his subjects. And from what other quarter, and upon what grounds, is an opposition to be expected? It may be said perhaps, that the minds of men ought not to be unsettled in religious matters; and that no one can tell, what popular clamours and discontents the proposed step may occasion. To this it may be replied, that as no innovation in religion is intended, not any the least alteration in the grounds of our faith or practice, no one's rights of any kind invaded, nor any encroachment made on the spiritual liberty of a single member of the community; what pretence can there be for uneasiness or discontent? The Clergy, it may be presumed, from a conviction of its rectitude, are already sufficiently disposed to approve and favour the undertaking. Nor will the more enlightened part of the Laity be less ready to discern its propriety and salutary tendency. And even the lowest of the people, the most apt to startle at a departure from long established usages, will, if the change be not greater than what is necessary, either scarcely perceive it at all, or so far as they do, will perceive it is made for the better; that by the alteration of a few words they are enabled to see clearly what they could not before understand, and are relieved from some difficulties, which could not fail to perplex and confound the weakness
of

J E R E M I A H.

CHAP. I.

1 **T**HE WORDS OF JEREMIAH THE SON OF HILKIAH, ONE
2 OF THE PRIESTS WHO DWELT AT ANATHOTH IN THE
3 LAND OF BENJAMIN ; TO WHOM THE WORD OF JEHOVAH
4 CAME IN THE DAYS OF JOSIAH THE SON OF AMON KING
5 OF JUDAH, IN THE THIRTEENTH YEAR OF HIS REIGN ;
6 AND CAME IN THE DAYS OF JEHOIAKIM THE SON OF JO-
7 SIAH KING OF JUDAH, UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE
8 ELEVENTH YEAR OF ZEDEKIAH THE SON OF JOSIAH KING
9 OF JUDAH, UNTIL THE CARRYING AWAY OF JERUSALEM
10 INTO CAPTIVITY IN THE FIFTH MONTH.

4 **E**VEN the word of JEHOVAH came unto me, say-
5 ing : Before I formed thee in the womb, I knew
6 thee ; and before thou camest forth from the birth,
7 I separated thee ; a prophet unto the nations have
8 I constituted thee. Then said I, Alas ! O Lord
9 JEHOVAH, behold, I know not how to speak ; for
10 I am a child. And JEHOVAH said unto me, Say
not, I am a child : but unto whomsoever I shall
send thee, thou shalt go ; and whatsoever I shall
give thee in charge, thou shalt speak. Be not
thou afraid because of them ; for I will be with
thee to protect thee, said JEHOVAH. And JEHO-
VAH put forth his hand, and touched my mouth.
And JEHOVAH said unto me, Behold, I have put
my words in thy mouth. See, I have given thee
power this day over nations and over kingdoms,

to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to overthrow ; and to build, and to plant.

- 11 And the word of JEHOVAH came unto me, saying, What seest thou, Jeremiah ? And I said, I see
12 a rod of an almond tree. And JEHOVAH said unto me, Thou hast rightly seen : for I am intent
13 upon my word to perform it. And the word of JEHOVAH came unto me a second time, saying, What seest thou ? And I said, I see a pot that sendeth forth steam ; and the face thereof is turned
14 ed from the north. And JEHOVAH said unto me, From the north shall the evil issue forth upon all
15 the inhabitants of the land. For behold I will call for all the families of the kingdoms of the north, said JEHOVAH ; and they shall come, and shall set every one his throne at the entering in of the gates of Jerusalem, and upon all the walls thereof round about, and over all the cities of Judah.
16 And I will pronounce my judgments against them for all their wickedness ; in that they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the work of their own hands.
17 And as for thee, thou shalt gird up thy loins, and shalt arise, and shalt speak unto them all that I shall command thee ; be not thou afraid of them, lest I should suffer thee to be crushed before them.
18 For I, behold, I have made thee this day like a fortified city, and like a pillar of iron, and like a wall of brass, against all this land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the
19 land : and they shall make war against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee : for I will be with thee, said JEHOVAH, to protect thee.

CHAP. II.

1 THE word of JEHOVAH came also unto me,
2 saying; Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem,
saying;

THUS saith JEHOVAH, I have called to mind
in thy behalf
The kindness shewn thee in thy youth, the love
of thy espousals,
When thou wentest under my conduct through
the wilderness,

Through a land that was not cultivated.

3 Israel is a hallowed thing unto JEHOVAH,
The first-fruits of his increase;
All that devour him shall be guilty of a trespass,
Evil shall come unto them, said JEHOVAH.

4 Hear ye the word of JEHOVAH, O house of Jacob,
And all the families of the house of Israel.

5 Thus saith JEHOVAH;
What wrongdealing did your fathers find in me,
That they went far from me,
And walked after vanity, and became vain?

6 And they said not, Where is JEHOVAH,
Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt,
Who led us through the wilderness,
Through a land of wide waste, and a pit,
Through a land of drought, and of the shadow of
death,

Through a land which no man passed through,
And where no human being dwelt?

7 I brought you also unto a land of fruitful field,
To eat the fruit thereof, and the good thereof;
But when ye were come in, ye defiled my land,
And mine heritage ye made an abomination,

8 The priests said not, Where is JEHOVAH?

- And they that were versed in the law knew me not ;
The pastors also rebelled against me ;
And the prophets prophesied in the name of Baal,
And walked after things that could not profit.
- 9 Therefore I will yet plead with you, saith JEHOVAH,
And with your childrens children will I plead.
- 10 For pass over unto the countries of Chittim, and see ;
And send ye to Kedar, and inform yourselves well ;
And take notice, if there hath been such a thing as
this.
- 11 Hath a nation changed Gods, even those that were
no Gods ?
But my people hath changed their glory for that
which cannot profit.
- 12 The heavens are astonished at this, and horribly
afraid,
They are shocked exceedingly, saith JEHOVAH.
- 13 For my people have done two wicked things :
Me they have forsaken, a fountain of living waters ;
And they have hewed out for themselves broken
cisterns,
Which will not hold water.
- 14 Is Israel a slave ? Or if a child of the household,
Wherefore is he exposed to spoil ?
- 15 Against him lions shall roar ;
They have lifted up the voice,
And have made his land a desolation ;
His cities are burned so as to be without an inha-
bitant.
- 16 The sons also of Noph and Tahpanhes shall bruise
the crown of thy head.
- 17 Shall not this be done unto thee,
Because thou hast forsaken JEHOVAH thy God,
At the time that he led thee in the way ?

- 18 And now what hast thou to do in the way of
Egypt,
To drink the waters of Sihor?
Or what hast thou to do in the way of Assyria,
To drink the waters of the river [Euphrates]?
- 19 Thine adversity shall chasten thee, and bring thee
to a sense of thy backslidings;
Know also and perceive, that it is a thing evil and
bitter,
That thou hast forsaken JEHOVAH thy God,
And that the fear of me is not with thee,
Saith the Lord JEHOVAH of hosts.
- 20 Surely of a long time thou hast broken thy yoke,
Thou hast burst thy bands, and hast said, I will
not be in subjection;
For upon every high hill,
And under every green tree,
Will I prostitute myself, playing the harlot.
- 21 And though I had planted thee a vine of Sorek,
Altogether a seed of genuine quality;
Yet how do I find thee changed!
Depart, O vine of spurious growth.
- 22 For though thou wash thee with nitre,
And take unto thee much sope,
Thine iniquity is marked with a blot before me,
Saith the Lord JEHOVAH.
- 23 How canst thou say, I am not polluted,
After Baalim have I not gone?
Behold thy ways in the valley;
Acknowledge what thou hast done.
- 24 A fleet dromedary, that hath taken to company
with her
A wild ass accustomed to the wilderness,
In the desire of her soul snuffeth up the wind;

- In her occasion who can turn her aside?
None will weary themselves in seeking her;
When her heat is over, they will find her.
- 25 Keep back thy foot from being unshod,
And thy throat from thirst.
But thou hast said, It is past remedy. No;
For I have loved strangers,
And after them will I go.
- 26 As a thief is ashamed when he is taken :
So have the house of Israel been put to shame,
They, their kings, and their princes,
And their priests, and their prophets :
- 27 Who say to a piece of wood, Thou art my father ;
And to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth ;
Surely they have turned unto me the back, and
not the face ;
But in the time of their trouble they will say,
Arise, and save us.
- 28 But where are thy gods, whom thou hast made
for thyself?
Let them arise, if they can save thee in the time
of thy trouble :
For according to the number of thy cities
Have been thy gods, O Judah.
- 29 To what end will ye enter into controversy with me?
All of you have rebelled against me, saith JEHOVAH.
- 30 In vain have I smitten your children ;
They have not received instruction.
Your own sword hath devoured your prophets,
Like a destroying lion.
- 31 O ye of this generation, behold ye the cause of
JEHOVAH :
Have I been a wilderness unto Israel?
Or a land of darkness?

Wherefore hath my people said, We are our own masters;

We will not come any more unto thee?

32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments? a bride her attire?

Yet my people have forgotten me days without number.

33 Why wilt thou direct thy way to the seeking of love?

Therefore also have I taught calamities thy ways.

34 Also in thy skirts is found blood,

The lives of poor innocents;

I have not found it in a digged hole,

But upon every oak.

35 Yet hast thou said, Because I am innocent,

Surely his wrath shall turn from me.

Behold I will enter into judgment with thee,

Because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

36 Why wilt thou make thyself exceedingly vile,

In repeating over again thy ways?

By means of Egypt also shalt thou be put to shame,

Even as thou hast been put to shame by Assyria.

37 Yea from hence too shalt thou go forth,

With thy hands upon thy head:

Because JEHOVAH hath reprobated the objects of thy trust,

And thou shalt not prosper in them.

CHAP. III.

1 Whilst thou sayest, If a man put away his wife,
And she depart from him, and become another man's;

Shall he return unto her again?

Shall not that land be defiled?

Even thou hast played the harlot with many lovers—

Yet return unto me, saith JEHOVAH.

- 2 Lift up thine eyes upon the open plains, and see ;
Where hast thou not been defiled in the highways ?
Thou hast sat waiting in them like an Arabian in the desert ;

And hast polluted the land by thy whoredoms and by thy wickedness.

- 3 And although the showers have been withholden,
And there hath been no latter rain ;
Yet thou hast had a harlot's forehead,
Thou hast resolved not to be ashamed.

- 4 Wilt thou not from henceforward call upon me,
(Saying) My father, the guide of my youth wert thou ?

- 5 Shall displeasure be kept in view for ever ?
Or shall there be a marking of offences for evermore ?

Behold, thou hast spoken, and done,
Thou hast wrought wickedness, and hast prevailed.

- 6 JEHOVAH also said unto me in the days of king Josiah ; Hast thou seen what revolted Israel hath done ? She hath gone upon every high mountain, and to the foot of every green tree, and hath
7 played the harlot there. And I said after she had done all these things, Return thou unto me. But she returned not. And her faithless sister Judah
8 saw it. And I saw, when because of all the adulteries, which revolted Israel had committed, I had put her away, and had given her a bill of divorce, that her faithless sister Judah was not afraid, but went and played the harlot also herself.

9 And it came to pass, through the wantonness of
her prostitution, that she polluted the land, and com-
10 mitted adultery with stone and with wood. And
also after all this, her faithless sister Judah return-
ed not to me with her whole heart, but feignedly,
11 said JEHOVAH. Therefore said JEHOVAH unto
me, Revolted Israel hath justified herself more
12 than faithless Judah. Go and proclaim these
words toward the north, and say,

RETURN, O revolted Israel, saith JEHOVAH ;
I will not look down upon you with a lowring
brow ;

For I am merciful, saith JEHOVAH,
I will not keep displeasure in view for ever.

13 Only acknowledge thine iniquity,
That thou hast rebelled against JEHOVAH thy
God ;

And hast been liberal of thy ways to strangers,
Under every green tree ;

And ye have not hearkened unto my voice, saith
JEHOVAH.

14 Return, O revolted children, saith JEHOVAH,
For I have been a husband among you :
And I will take you one out of a city, and two
out of a tribe,
And I will bring you to Sion.

15 And I will give you rulers after mine own heart,
And they shall rule you with knowledge and dis-
cretion.

16 And it shall be when ye shall have multiplied and
increased in the land,
In those days, saith JEHOVAH,

- They shall no more say, The ark of the covenant
of JEHOVAH,
Nor shall it be the delight of their heart,
Nor shall they remember it, nor shall they care
[about it,]
Nor shall it be made any more.
- 17 At that time shall Jerusalem be called the throne
of JEHOVAH;
And all nations shall resort to it in the name of
JEHOVAH;
And they shall not walk any more after the lust-
ing of their evil heart.
- 18 In those days shall the house of Judah go unto
the house of Israel,
And they shall come together out of the north
country,
Unto the land which I made your fathers to inherit.
- 19 And when I said, How shall I place thee among
sons,
And give unto thee the land of desire,
The inheritance of the glory of hosts of nations?
Then said I, Thou shalt call me, My father;
And thou shalt not turn aside from following me.
- 20 Surely as a wicked woman breaketh her faith;
So have ye broken your faith towards me,
O house of Israel, saith JEHOVAH.
- 21 A voice hath been heard upon the plains,
Weeping and supplications of the children of Is-
rael;
Because they have perverted their way,
They have forgotten JEHOVAH their God.
- 22 Return, O revolted children,
I will heal your apostasies.—
Behold we come unto thee,

For thou art JEHOVAH our God.

23 Surely hills are lies, the tumult of mountains;
Surely in JEHOVAH our God is the salvation of
Israel.

24 But that thing of shame hath devoured the sub-
stance of our fathers from our youth;

Their sheep, and their oxen,
Their sons, and their daughters,

25 We shall lie down in our shame,
And our ignominy will overwhelm us;
Because we have sinned against JEHOVAH our God,
We and our fathers from our youth even until this
day,

And have not obeyed the voice of JEHOVAH our
God.

CHAP. IV.

1 IF thou wilt turn again, O Israel,
Saith JEHOVAH, unto me shalt thou return;
And if thou wilt put away thine abominations,
From before me shalt thou not be removed;

2 But thou shalt swear, As JEHOVAH liveth,
In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness;
And the nations shall bless themselves in him,
And in him shall they glory.

3 SURELY thus saith JEHOVAH
To the men of Judah and to Jerusalem;
Break up your ground in tillage,
And sow not among thorns.

4 Be ye circumcised unto JEHOVAH,
And take away the foreskins of your hearts,
O ye men of Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusa-
lem;

Lest my wrath go forth like fire,
And it be kindled that none can quench it.

Because of the evil of your doings.

- 5 Declare ye in Judah,
And in Jerusalem publish ye, and say ;
Sound ye the trumpet in the land,
Proclaim throughout, and say,
Gather together, and let us enter into the fortified cities.
- 6 Set up a standard in Sion,
Retire in a body, make no stand ;
For I am about to bring evil from the north,
Even a great destruction.
- 7 A lion is gone up from his thicket,
And a destroyer of nations is on his way ;
He is gone forth from his place to make thy land
a desolation ;
Thy cities shall be ruined, so as to be without
inhabitant.
- 8 For this cause gird on sackcloth, lament, and wail,
Because the fierce anger of JEHOVAH is not turned
away from him.
- 9 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith JEHOVAH,
The heart of the king shall fail, and the heart of
the princes ;
And the priests shall be astonished, and the prophets
shall wonder.
- 10 Then said I, Alas ! O Lord JEHOVAH !
Surely thou hast altogether deceived this people
and Jerusalem,
Saying, ye shall have peace ;
Although the sword penetrateth to the very quick.
- 11 At that time shall it be said concerning this people,
and concerning Jerusalem ;
A wind that scorseth the plains in the wilderness

[Shall come] toward the daughter of my people,
not to winnow, nor to cleanse ;

12 A full wind for a curse shall come at my bidding;
Now even I will proceed judicially with them.

13 Behold, like clouds shall he come up,
And as a whirlwind his chariots ;
Swifter than eagles are his horses,
Wo unto us ! for we are laid waste.

14 Cleanse thy heart from wickedness,
O Jerusalem, that thou mayest be saved.
How long shall there harbour within thee
The devices of thine iniquity !

15 For a voice declareth from Dan,
And publisheth iniquity from mount Ephraim.

16 Proclaim ye unto the nations, Behold !
Publish ye concerning Jerusalem,
That watchers are coming from a far country,
And they shall lift up their voice against the
cities of Judah.

17 Like keepers of fields are they round about her,
Because she hath rebelled against me, saith JE-
HOVAH.

18 Thy way and thy doings have brought a curse
upon thee ;
Such is thy calamity ; for it is bitterness ; for it
is a plague even unto thy heart.

19 My bowels, my bowels are pained, the walls
of my heart ;
My heart is troubled within me ; I cannot be
silent ;
Because I have heard the sound of the trumpet,
My soul the alarm of war.

20 Destruction is come upon the heels of destruction ;
Surely the whole land is spoiled :

- On a sudden have my tents been spoiled,
My curtains in an instant.
- 21 How long shall I see the standard?
Shall I hear the sound of the trumpet?
- 22 Surely my people is foolish,
Me have they not known ;
Infatuated children are they,
And they are without understanding :
They are well skilled to do evil,
But for doing good they have no knowledge.
- 23 I beheld the earth, and, lo ! disorder and confusion ;
The heavens also, and there was no light.
- 24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo ! they trembled ;
And all the hills shook.
- 25 I beheld, and, lo ! there was not a man ;
And all the fowls of the heavens were fled.
- 26 I beheld, and, lo ! the fruitful field [was become]
the desart ;
And all its cities were thrown down,
Before the presence of JEHOVAH,
Before the fierce heat of his anger.
- 27 For thus saith JEHOVAH,
The whole land shall become a desolation,
And I will not make an end.
- 28 For this cause shall the earth mourn,
And the heavens shall be covered with blackness ;
Because I have spoken, and I do not repent ;
I have purposed, and will not recede from it.
- 29 At the shout of the horseman, and of the archer,
Every city fleeth ;
They are gone into thick woods,
And they have climbed up upon the rocks :
Every city is forsaken,
And there is not a man dwelling in them.

- 30 And against spoiling what wilt thou do?
 Though thou clothest thyself in scarlet,
 Though thou adornest thyself with ornaments of
 gold,
 Though thou distendest thy eyes with paint,
 In vain shalt thou set forth thy beauty;
 Thy paramours have rejected thee,
 They seek thy life.
- 31 Surely I have heard the cry as of a woman in
 travail,
 Distress as of one that bringeth forth a first child,
 The cry of the daughter of Sion;
 She sobbeth, she spreadeth out her hands,
 (Saying) Wo now unto me!
 For my soul fainteth because of murderers.

CHAP. V.

- 1 RUN ye to and fro through the streets of Je-
 rusalem,
 And see now and know, and seek in her broad
 places,
 If ye can find a single man,
 If there be one that doeth justice,
 That seeketh truth; that I may pardon her.
- 2 But though they say, As JEHOVAH liveth,
 Surely they will swear falsely.
- 3 O JEHOVAH, are not thine eyes towards the truth?
 Thou hast smitten them, but they have not grieved;
 Thou hast consumed them, but they have refused
 to receive correction;
 They have made their faces harder than a rock,
 They have refused to return.
- 4 Then said I,
 Surely these are the meaner sort, who have acted
 foolishly,

- Because they have not known the way of JEHOVAH,
The judgment of their God.
- 5 I will get me unto the great ones,
And I will speak unto them ;
For these have known the way of JEHOVAH,
The judgment of their God.
But these have in like manner broken the yoke,
They have burst the bands.
- 6 Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them,
A wolf of the plains shall spoil them,
A leopard shall watch over their cities ;
Every one that goeth out of them shall be torn
in pieces ;
Because their rebellions are multiplied,
Their apostasies are increased.
- 7 How can I pardon thee for this ?
Thy children have forsaken me,
And sworn by them that are no gods :
When I had fed them to the full, then they committed adultery,
And assembled themselves in the harlot's house.
- 8 They were libidinous as stallion horses,
Every one neighed after his neighbour's wife.
- 9 For these things shall I not visit ? saith JEHOVAH ;
And shall not my soul avenge itself of such a
nation as this ?
- 10 Go ye up upon her walls, and destroy,
And make ye not an end ;
Take away her branches,
For they belong not to JEHOVAH.
- 11 For they have dealt very unfaithfully with me,
The house of Israel, and the house of Judah,
saith JEHOVAH.
- 12 They have denied JEHOVAH,

- And have said, It is not He :
 Neither shall calamity come upon us,
 And the sword and famine shall we not see :
 13 But the Prophets shall be as wind ;
 And they have no authority to say,
 Thus shall it be done unto them..
 14 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH God of hosts ;
 Because ye have spoken this word,
 Behold I will make my words in thy mouth as fire,
 And this people as wood, that it may devour them.
 15 Behold I will bring against you a nation from far,
 O house of Israel, saith JEHOVAH ;
 It is a strong nation,
 It is a nation of great antiquity ;
 A nation whose language thou shalt not know,
 Neither shalt thou understand what they speak.
 16 Their quiver is an open sepulchre ;
 All of them are mighty men.
 17 And they shall consume thy harvest and thy bread,
 They shall consume thy sons, and thy daughters,
 They shall consume thy sheep, and thy oxen,
 They shall consume thy vine, and thy fig-tree,
 They shall impoverish thy fortified cities,
 In which thou trustedst, with the sword.
 18 And also in those days, saith JEHOVAH,
 I will not make a finishing with you.
 19 And it shall be, when ye shall say,
 Wherefore hath JEHOVAH our God done all these
 things unto us ?
 Then shalt thou say unto them,
 Like as ye have forsaken me,
 And have served strange gods in your land ;
 So shall ye serve strangers
 In a land that is not yours.

- 20 Declare ye this in the house of Jacob,
And publish it in Judah, saying;
- 21 Hear ye now this,
O foolish people, and without understanding;
Who have eyes, yet they will not see;
Who have ears, yet they will not hear.
- 22 Will ye not fear me? saith JEHOVAH,
Will ye not tremble at my presence?
Who have appointed the sand a bound to the sea,
A perpetual ordinance, and it shall not go beyond it;
Though it toss itself about, yet shall it not prevail;
Though the waves thereof roar, yet shall they not go beyond it.
- 23 But this people hath a revolting and rebellious heart;
They have revolted, and are gone.
- 24 Neither have they said in their heart,
Let us now fear JEHOVAH our God,
Who giveth rain, both the former and the latter,
in its season;
A sufficiency of the appointed things of harvest he secureth to us.
- 25 Your iniquities have turned aside these things,
And your sins have withholden that which is good from you.
- 26 For among my people are found wicked men,
Who lie on the watch like the cowering of fowlers;
They have set a trap, that they may catch men.
- 27 As a trap cage is full of birds,
So are their houses full of fraud;
Therefore are they grown great and rich,
- 28 They are waxen fat, and shine.

- Though they have gone beyond the claims of
the wicked ;
They have not maintained the cause,
The cause of the orphan, so as to make it prosper ;
And the right of the poor have they not vindicated.
29 For these things shall I not visit? saith JEHOVAH;
Shall not my soul avenge itself of such a nation
as this?
30 An' astonishing and horrible thing hath been
wrought in the land.
31 The prophets have prophecied falsely ;
And the priests have concurred with them ;
And my people have liked it should be so ;
And what will ye do in regard to the consequences thereof?

CHAP. VI.

- 1 RETIRE in a body, O ye sons of Benjamin,
out of the midst of Jerusalem,
And in Tekoa sound ye the trumpet,
Also upon Beth-haccerem light up a fire-beacon ;
For evil is seen coming onwards from the north,
Even a great destruction.
2 The habitation, even the delightful one, have I
doomed to destruction,
The daughter of Sion.
3 The shepherds with their flocks shall come to her,
And they shall pitch their tents against her
round about,
And shall feed each in his quarter.
4 Declare ye war against her ;
Arise, and let us go up at noonday :
Alas for us ! for the day is upon the decline,
For the shadows of the evening are lengthened :

- 5 Arise, and let us go up in the night,
And let us destroy her palaces:
- 6 For thus hath JEHOVAH of hosts said,
Cut down her timber,
And raise a mount against Jerusalem :
She is a city ripe for visitation ;
Every kind of oppression is in the midst of her.
- 7 As a fountain causeth its waters to issue forth,
So hath she caused her wickedness to go abroad :
Rapine and spoil are heard in the midst of her ;
Sickness and smiting are continually before my
face.
- 8 Be thou reformed, O Jerusalem,
Lest my soul be alienated from thee ;
Lest I make thee a desolation,
A land not inhabited.
- 9 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts ;
They shall thoroughly glean as a vine the reliques
of Israel ;
Turn again thine hand, like a grape-gatherer,
unto the baskets.
- 10 To whom shall I speak,
And give warning, so that they shall hear ?
Behold their ear is uncircumcised,
So that they cannot hearken ;
Behold the word of JEHOVAH hath been among
them a thing of nought,
They take no delight in it.
- 11 Therefore the wrath of JEHOVAH, with which I
am filled,
I am weary of refraining to pour forth
Upon the children in the street,
And upon the abal of young men together :
Yea also the husband with the wife shall be taken,

The aged with him that is full of days.

12 And their houses shall devolve to others,
The lands and women likewise;
Because I will stretch forth my hand
Against the inhabitants of the land, saith JEHOVAH.

13 For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them,

Every one is wholly addicted to his lust;
And from the prophet even unto the priest,
Every one practiseth falsehood.

14 And they have healed the wound of the daughter of my people superficially,

Saying, Peace, peace; when there was no peace.

15 Were they ashamed because they had committed abomination?

Nay, they were not at all ashamed;

Nay, they knew not how to blush:

Therefore shall they fall one after another,

In the time of their visitation shall they be cast down, saith JEHOVAH.

16 Thus hath JEHOVAH said;

Stand ye by the side of the ways, and look,

And ask concerning the paths of old time,

Which is the best way, and walk ye in it;

So shall ye find a restoration of your souls.

But they said, We will not walk [in it.]

17 And I will set over you watchmen;

Hearken ye to the sound of the trumpet.

But they said, We will not hearken.

18 Wherefore hear, O nations, and know, O congregation;

That which is among them hear, O earth.

19 Behold, I am about to bring evil upon this people,

- The fruit of their own imaginations ;
Because to my words they have not hearkened,
And as for my law they have even rejected it.
- 20 To what purpose shall frankincense be brought
unto me from Saba ?
Or the rich aromatic reed from a far country ?
Your burnt offerings are not acceptable,
Nor are your sacrifices pleasant unto me.
- 21 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH,
Behold I am about to lay stumbling blocks before this people,
And the fathers and the sons shall stumble at them ;
Together shall the inhabitant and his companion perish.
- 22 Thus saith JEHOVAH ;
Behold, a people is coming from the north country,
And a great nation shall be roused from the extremities of the earth ;
- 23 The bow and the spear shall they take in hand ;
It is a cruel one, and they will shew no mercy ;
Their voice shall roar as the sea ;
And upon horses shall they ride,
In orderly array, as men for battle,
Against thee, O daughter of Sion.
- 24 We have heard the report thereof ;
Our hands are waxed feeble ;
Trouble hath taken hold of us,
The pain as of a woman in travail.
- 25 Go ye not forth into the field,
Neither walk ye in the highway :
Because the sword is with the enemy,
Terror on every side.

- 26 O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth,
And roll thyself in ashes;
Make thee wailing as for a darling child,
Most bitter lamentation;
For suddenly shall the spoiler come upon us.
- 27 I have appointed thee to make an assay among
my people as to the gold thereof;
Thou shalt know, when thou shalt have proved,
their way.
- 28 They are all of them the dross of revolvers,
Passing with a fraudulent currency;
Brass and iron all of them,
Instruments of adulteration are they.
- 29 The bellows are burned by the fire,
The lead is entirely spent;
The refiner hath melted in vain,
For the bad are not separated.
- 30 Reprobated silver call ye them;
For JEHOVAH hath reprobated them.

CHAP. VII.

- 1 THE word which came to Jeremiah from JE-
2 HOVAH, saying; Stand in the gate of the house
of JEHOVAH, and there shalt thou proclaim this
word, and shalt say,

HEAR ye the word of JEHOVAH, all Judah,
Ye that enter in at these gates, to worship JEHO-
VAH.

- 3 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel,
Amend your ways and your doings,
And I will dwell among you in this place.
- 4 Trust ye not in those that speak falsehood, saying,
The temple of JEHOVAH, the temple of JEHOVAH,
the temple of JEHOVAH, are these.

- 5 For if ye will thoroughly amend your ways and
your doings,
If ye will altogether do justice between a man
and his neighbour ;
- 6 The stranger, fatherless, and widow shall ye not
oppress ;
Neither shed innocent blood in this place ;
And after strange gods ye shall not go to your
own hurt :
- 7 Then will I dwell with you in this place,
In the land which I gave to your fathers,
From everlasting to everlasting.
- 8 Behold ye place your confidence
In those that speak falsehood to no profit.
- 9 What? whilst ye steal, murder, and commit adultery,
And swear falsely, and burn incense to Baal,
And walk after strange gods,
Whom ye have not known ;
- 10 Will ye then come, and stand before me,
In this house which is called by my name,
And say, Deliver us, that we may practise all these
abominations ?
- 11 A den of robbers is this house become,
Which is called by my name, in your eyes ?
Even I, behold, I have seen, saith JEHOVAH.
- 12 But go now to my place which was in Shiloh,
Where I caused my name to dwell in former time,
And see what I have done to it
Because of the wickedness of my people Israel.
- 13 And now because ye have done all these works,
saith JEHOVAH.
And I have spoken unto you, rising early and
speaking, but ye hearkened not ;

- And I have called unto you, but ye answered not:
 14 Therefore will I do to the house, which is called
 by my name,
 In which ye place your confidence,
 And to the place which I gave to you and to
 your fathers,
 According to what I have done to Shiloh.
 15 And I will cast you out from my presence,
 As I have cast out all your brethren,
 The whole seed of Ephraim.
 16 And as for thee, pray not for this people,
 Neither lift up in their behalf a cry or a suppli-
 cation,
 Neither intercede with me;
 For I will not hear thee.
 17 Seest thou not what these are doing
 In the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Je-
 rusalem?
 18 The sons gather wood,
 And the fathers kindle the fire,
 And the women knead dough,
 To make cakes for the regency of the heavens,
 And to pour out libations to strange gods,
 So as to vex me.
 19 Do they vex me? saith JEHOVAH;
 Do they not [vex] themselves to the confusion
 of their own faces?
 20 Therefore thus saith the Lord JEHOVAH;
 Behold, my anger and my fury shall be poured
 forth on this place,
 Upon man, and upon beast,
 And upon the trees of the field,
 And upon the fruit of the ground;
 And it shall burn, and not be quenched.

- 21 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel ;
Add your burnt-offerings unto your sacrifices,
And eat ye flesh.
- 22 For I spake not with your fathers, nor com-
manded them,
In the day I brought them out of the land of
Egypt,
For the sake of burnt-offering and sacrifice :
- 23 But this was the matter I commanded them,
Saying, Harken ye unto my voice ;
So will I be unto you a God,
And ye shall be unto me a people ;
And ye shall walk in all the way which I shall
command you,
That it may go well with you.
- 24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear,
But pursued measures according to the imagina-
tion of their evil heart,
And drew backward, and not forward.
- 25 From the day that your fathers came out of the
land of Egypt,
Even unto this day,
I have also sent unto you all my servants the pro-
phets,
Daily rising early and sending.
- 26 But they have not hearkened unto me,
Nor have they inclined their ear ;
But they have hardened their neck,
They have acted more wickedly than their fathers.
- 27 And when thou shalt speak all these things unto
them,
They will not hearken unto thee ;
And when thou shalt call unto them,
They will make thee no answer.

- 28 Therefore shalt thou say unto them, This is the nation,
Which have not hearkened unto the voice of JEHOVAH their God ;
Neither have they admitted correction ;
Truth hath failed, and is cut off from their mouth.
- 29 Shave off thy Nazarite locks, and cast them away,
And set up a lamentation upon the open plains ;
Because JEHOVAH hath rejected his people,
And hath turned adrift the generation of his wrath.
- 30 For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith JEHOVAH ;
They have set their abominations in the house,
Which is called by my name, to pollute it.
- 31 And they have erected the high places of Tophet,
Which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom,
To burn their sons and their daughters in the fire ;
Which I commanded not,
Nor was it acceptable unto me.
- 32 Therefore behold the days are coming, saith JEHOVAH,
That it shall no more be called Topheth,
Or the valley of the son of Hinnom ;
But the valley of slaughter :
And they shall bury in Topheth, till there be no room left.
- 33 And the carcases of this people shall be for meat
To the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the earth ;
And none shall scare [them] away.
- 34 And I will cause to cease from the cities of Judah,
And from the streets of Jerusalem,
The voice of joy, and the voice of mirth,

The voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of
the bride ;
For the land shall become a desolation.

CHAP. VIII.

- 1 At that time, saith JEHOVAH, shall they cast forth
The bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones
of the princes thereof,
And the bones of the priests, and the bones of the
prophets,
And the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
out of their graves ;
- 2 And they shall leave them exposed to the sun, and
to the moon,
And to all the host of heaven, which they have
loved,
And which they have served, and after which
they have gone,
And which they have sought, and to which they
have bowed down :
They shall not be gathered, nor shall they be
buried ;
They shall be as dung upon the face of the ground.
- 3 And death shall be chosen rather than life by all
the remnant,
Those that are left of this evil family in all places
Whither I have driven them, saith JEHOVAH of
hosts.
- 4 THOU shalt also say unto them, Thus saith
JEHOVAH ;
Shall they that fall not rise again ?
Or he that turneth away, shall he not return ?
- 5 Why then hath this people revolted,
Jerusalem with a perpetual apostasy ?

They have taken fast hold of deceit,

They have refused to return.

6 I have hearkened with attention,

They will not speak aright ;

No one repenteth of his wickedness,

Saying, What have I done ?

Every one that turneth away runneth on full speed,

As a horse rushing to the battle.

7 Even the stork in the heavens knoweth her stated times,

And the turtle dove, and the crane, and the swallow observe the season of their coming :

But my people have not discerned the judgment of JEHOVAH.

8 How will ye say, We are wise,

And the law of JEHOVAH is among us ?

Surely the false pen of scribes

Hath converted these into falsehood.

9 The wise ones are confounded,

They are dismayed and ensnared ;

Behold, they have spurned at the word of JEHOVAH ;

And as for wisdom, what is there in them ?

10 Therefore will I give their wives unto others,

Their fields to those that shall enter into possession ;

Because from the least even unto the greatest,

Every one is wholly addicted to his lust ;

From the prophet even unto the priest,

Every one practiseth falsehood.

11 And they have healed the wound of the daughter of my people superficially,

Saying, Peace, peace ; when there was no peace.

12 Were they ashamed because they had committed abomination ?

Nay, they were not ashamed,
Neither knew they how to blush :
Therefore shall they fall one after another,
In the time of their visitation shall they be cast
down, saith JEHOVAH.

13 I will utterly consume them, saith JEHOVAH ;
There shall be no grapes on the vine,
Nor shall there be figs on the fig-tree ;
Even the leaf is withered ;
For I have appointed these to pass away from them.

14 Wherefore do we sit still ?
Assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the
fortified cities ;
And let us wait in silence there, since JEHOVAH
our God hath silenced us,
And hath given us water of hemlock to drink.
Because we have sinned against JEHOVAH,
15 We look for peace, and there is no good,
For a time of healing, and behold terror.
16 From Dan is heard the snorting of his horses,
At the sound of the neighing of his steeds the
whole land trembleth ;
They are come also, and have eaten up the land,
and all that is in it ;
The city and those that dwelt in it.

17 Surely, behold, I am about to send against you
serpents,

Basilisks, which cannot be charmed ;
And they shall bite you, saith JEHOVAH.

18 Sorrow is upon me past my remedying,
My heart within me is faint.

19 Behold the voice of the daughter of my people
from a far country !
Is not JEHOVAH in Sion ?
Is not her king in her ?

(Why then have they provoked me by their graven images,

And by their foreign vanities?)

20 The harvest is over, the summer is ended ;
Yet we are not delivered.

21 Upon account of the wound of the daughter of
my people am I heart-broken ;

I mourn ; astonishment hath taken hold on me.

22 Is there no balm in Gilead ?

Is there no physician there ?

Why then is not the health of the daughter of
my people restored ?

CHAP. IX.

1 Oh that my head were waters,
And mine eyes a fountain of tears,
That I might weep day and night
For the slain of the daughter of my people

2 Oh that I had in the wilderness a traveller's
lodge,

That I might leave my people, and go from them !
Because they are all of them adulterers,
An assembly of perfidious dealers.

3 And they have bent their tongue like a bow ;
By falsehood, and not according to truth, they
are become mighty in the land ;
Surely from wickedness to wickedness have they
proceeded ;

And me have they not known, saith JEHOVAH.

4 Be upon your guard each man against his com-
panion ;

And place no confidence in any brother :

For every brother will surely supplant ;

And every companion will go about to over-
reach.

- 5 And they will impose every one upon his companion;
And the truth will they not speak;
They have habituated their tongue to speak falsehood;
They have wearied themselves in practising iniquity.
- 6 Thy habitation is in the midst of deceit;
Through deceit have they refused to know me,
saith JEHOVAH.
- 7 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts,
Behold I will melt them and try them;
For how else can I act with respect to the daughter of my people?
- 8 Their tongue is the arrow of a murderer,
In whose mouth the word is treachery;
He will profess peace towards his companion,
But inwardly will he resolve to fall upon him by surprise.
- 9 For these things shall I not visit? saith JEHOVAH;
Shall not my soul avenge itself of such a nation as this?
- 10 Upon the mountains will I bring up weeping and wailing,
And upon the pastures of the plain lamentation;
Because they are burned up, so that no man passeth through,
And they hear not the voice of cattle;
Both the fowls of the heavens and the beasts are fled, are gone.
- 11 And I will reduce Jerusalem into heaps, a den of dragons;
And the cities of Judah will I make a desolation without inhabitant.

- 12 Who is the wise man, that can understand this?
And to whom the mouth of JEHOVAH hath spoken,
so that he can declare it?
Wherefore is the land destroyed,
Burnt up like a desert, so that no man passeth
through it?
- 13 Even JEHOVAH hath said,
Because they have forsaken my law,
Which I set before them;
And have not hearkened unto my voice,
Neither have walked according to it;
- 14 But they have gone after the imaginations of
their own heart,
And after the deities which they learned from
their fathers:
- 15 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God
of Israel;
Behold I will feed them with wormwood,
And I will give them water of hemlock to drink.
- 16 And I will scatter them among nations,
Whom they have not known, they nor their fathers;
And I will send after them the sword,
Until I shall have made an end of them.
- 17 THUS saith JEHOVAH of hosts,
Consider ye, and call for the mourning women,
and let them come;
And send to the skilful ones, and let them come;
- 18 And let them haste and begin a lamentation over
us;
That our eyes may let fall tears,
And our eyelids pour forth waters.
- 19 Surely a voice of lamentation hath been heard
from Sion;
How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded!

- Because we have abandoned the land,
Because they have thrown down our habitations.
20 Therefore hear, O ye women, the word of JEHOVAH,
And let your ear receive the word of his mouth ;
And teach your daughters a lamentation,
And every one her companion a mournful dirge.
21 For death hath climbed up through our windows,
It hath entered into our palaces ;
It hath at once cut off the children from the street,
And destroyed the young men from the broad
places.
22 The carcases of men also shall fall as dung on
the face of the field,
And as the handful behind the reaper, when there
is none to gather.
23 Thus saith JEHOVAH ;
Let not the wise glory in his wisdom,
Nor let the mighty glory in his might,
Nor let the rich glory in his riches :
24 But let him that glorieth glory in this,
In understanding and knowing me,
That I am JEHOVAH, exercising loving kindness,
Judgment, and faithfulness upon earth :
For in these do I delight, saith JEHOVAH.
25 Behold the days are coming, saith JEHOVAH,
That I will punish all the circumcision with the
uncircumcision ;
26 Egypt, and Judah, and Edom,
And the children of Ammon, and Moab,
And all those that have their coast insulated,
Those that dwell in the wilderness :
For all the nations are uncircumcised,
And all the house of Israel, uncircumcised in heart.

CHAP. X.

- 1 **HEAR** ye the word which **JEHOVAH** hath spoken ;
- 2 Unto you, O house of Israel, thus hath **JEHOVAH** said ;
Unto the way of the heathen conform ye not ;
Neither be ye dismayed at the signs of the heavens,
Although the heathen be dismayed at them.
- 3 For the institutions of the people are vanity itself ;
For they cut down trees out of the forest,
The manufacture of him that worketh with a sharp tool. .
- 4 With silver and with gold they decorate,
With nails and with hammers they fasten them,
That they may not totter.
- 5 As the palmtree are these for stiffness,
And they cannot speak ;
They must altogether be carried,
For they cannot walk :
Fear ye them not, for they cannot hurt ;
And also to do good is not in their power.
- 6 There is none like thee, O **JEHOVAH**,
Great art thou, and great is thy name in might.
- 7 Who will not fear thee, O king of nations,
When he shall approach unto thee ?
Forasmuch as among all the wisest of the nations,
And in all their kingdoms, there is none like thee.
- 8 But they, when they approach, are stupid and sottish,
The very wood itself being a rebuker of vanities.
- 9 Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish,
And gold from Uphaz ;

- The work of the silversmith,
And of the hands of the founder :
Blue and purple is their clothing ;
The work of the skilful all of them.
- 10 But JEHOVAH, he is truly God,
A living God, and an everlasting King ;
At his wrath the earth shall tremble,
And the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.
- 11 In this manner shall ye speak unto them ;
The gods, which have not made the heavens and the earth,
Shall perish from off the earth, and from under these heavens.
- 12 He hath made the earth by his power,
Establishing the world by his wisdom ;
By his understanding also hath he spread out the heavens.
- 13 When he exerteth his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens,
And he maketh clouds to rise from the extremity of the earth ;
He produceth lightnings with rain,
And bringeth the wind forth out of his magazines.
- 14 Every man becometh a brute by acknowledging,
Every goldsmith is put to shame by graving,
When they have set up false objects of worship,
And such as have no breath in them.
- 15 Vanity are these, the work of those that greatly err :
In the time of their visitation they shall perish.
- 16 Not like these is the portion of Jacob ;
For he is the former of the universe,
And Israel is the rod of his inheritance ;
JEHOVAH of hosts is his name.

- 17 GATHER up thine effects out of the land,
O thou that dwellest in a fortress.
- 18 For thus saith JEHOVAH ;
Behold I will smite with slings the inhabitants of
the land at this time,
And I will distress them, so that they shall be taken.
- 19 Wo is me because of my bruise !
My wound is painful ; but I said,
Surely this is an affliction, yet have I borne it.
- 20 My tent is laid waste, and all my cords are broken ;
My children are gone forth from me, and are not ;
There is none to pitch my tent any more,
Or to set up my curtains.
- 21 Because the pastors are become brutish,
And JEHOVAH have they not sought ;
Therefore they have not prospered.
And all their flock is dispersed.
- 22 Hark a noise ! behold, it advanceth,
Even a great commotion from the north country ;
To make the cities of Judah a desolation,
A dwelling place for dragons.
- 23 I know JEHOVAH, that his way is not like that
of men,
Not like a human being doth he proceed and
order his going.
- 24 Correct me, O JEHOVAH, only with moderation ;
Not in thine anger, lest thou crush me to atoms.
- 25 Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen which have
not known thee,
And upon the families which have not called up-
on thy name ;
For they have devoured Jacob and consumed him,
And his dwelling place have they made desolate.

CHAP. XI.

1 THE WORD WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOVAH,
SAYING,

2 HEAR ye the words of this covenant. And
thou shalt speak them to the men of Judah, and
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and thou shalt
3 say unto them, Cursed is the man who will not
4 hearken to the words of this covenant, which I
commanded your fathers in the day that I brought
them forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the
iron furnace, saying, Hearken ye unto my voice,
and do all which I command you: so shall ye be
unto me a people, and I will be unto you a God:
5 That I may perform the oath which I swore un-
to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with
milk and honey, as at this day. Then answered
6 I and said, So be it, O JEHOVAH. And JEHO-
VAH said unto me, Proclaim all these words in
the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusa-
lem, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant,
7 and do them. For I earnestly admonished your
fathers in the day that I brought them up out of
the land of Egypt, and all along unto this day,
rising up early and admonishing, saying, Hear-
8 ken ye unto my voice. But they hearkened not,
nor inclined their ear, but went every one after
the lusts of his wicked heart; therefore have I
brought upon them all the denunciations of this
covenant, which I commanded them to perform;
but they performed not.

9 ALSO JEHOVAH said unto me,
A combination hath been found among the men
of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

- 10 They are turned again unto the iniquities of their forefathers,
Who refused to hearken unto my words ;
These also have gone after strange gods to serve them ;
The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant,
Which I entered into with their fathers.
- 11 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH ;
Behold I am about to bring upon them a calamity,
From which they shall not be able to extricate themselves ;
And though they cry unto me, yet will I not hear them.
- 12 And the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall go,
And shall cry unto the gods unto whom they burn incense ;
But they shall not save them at all in the time of their calamity.
- 13 For according to the number of thy cities have been thy gods, O Judah ;
And according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem ye have set up altars to a thing of shame,
Altars for burning incense to Baal.
- 14 Therefore pray thou not for this people,
Neither lift up in their behalf a cry or a supplication ;
For I will not hear in the time that they cry unto me,
In the time of their calamity.
- 15 What hath my beloved to do in my house whilst she practiseth wickedness ?
Shall vows and holy flesh be allowed to come from thee ?

- When thou art malignant, shalt thou then rejoice?
16 An olive tree, green, fair, of goodly fruit,
JEHOVAH had called thy name :
With the noise of loud clamour hath he kindled
a fire mounting upwards,
Even to consume the branches thereof.
17 For JEHOVAH of hosts, who planted thee,
Hath pronounced evil against thee,
In prosecution of the evil of the house of Israel,
and of the house of Judah,
Which they have wrought unto themselves,
In provoking me to anger by burning incense to
Baal.
18 JEHOVAH also acquainted me, and I knew ;
Then didst thou shew me their proceedings.
19 For I was like a tame lamb that is led to slaughter ;
And knew not that they had laid plots against
me, [saying]
Let us destroy the tree in its nutriment ;
And let us cut him off from the land of the living,
That his name may no more be mentioned,
20 But, O JEHOVAH of hosts, who judgest righteously,
Who triest the reins and the heart,
Let me see thy vengeance upon them,
For unto thee have I laid open my cause.
21 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH,
As concerning the men of Anathoth that seek thy
life,
Saying, Prophecy not in the name of JEHOVAH,
That thou mayest not die by our hand ;
22 For this cause, thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts ;
Behold I am about to execute judgment upon
them ;
The young men shall die by the sword ;

23 Their sons and their daughters shall die by famine;
And there shall be none of them left remaining;
For I will bring evil upon the men of Anathoth,
The year of their visitation.

CHAP. XII.

1 RIGHTEOUS art thou, O JEHOVAH, whensoever I enter into controversy with thee,
Yet let me expostulate with thee concerning judgments.

Wherefore doth the way of wicked men prosper?
At ease are all they who deal very perfidiously.

2 Thou hast planted them, they have also taken root;
They advance in growth, they have borne fruit;
Thou art near in their mouth,
But art far from their reins.

3 But Thou, O JEHOVAH, hast known me;
Thou canst discern by trial my heart to be with thee;

Draw them out as sheep for slaughter,
And set them apart as for the day of execution.

4 How long shall the land mourn,
And the grass of every field wither,
Through the wickedness of them that dwell therein?

The beasts are consumed, and the birds,
Because they have said, He will not see our latter end.

5 If thou hast run with footmen, and they have wearied thee,
Then how wilt thou chafe thyself with horses?
And though in a land of peace thou mayest have confidence,

- Yet how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan ?
6 Whereas also thy brethren and the house of thy father,
Even these have acted perfidiously towards thee ;
Even these have pursued with loud outcries after thee :
Rely not upon them, that they will speak friendly unto thee.
- 7 I have abandoned my house,
I have relinquished my heritage,
I have given the beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies.
- 8 Mine heritage hath been to me as a lion in the forest,
She hath exerted her voice against me,
Therefore have I hated her.
- 9 As the ravenous bird Tseboa hath my heritage been to me ;
O ye ravenous birds, come ye against her round about ;
Assemble, all ye beasts of the field,
Come ye to devour.
- 10 Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard,
They have trodden under foot my portion,
They have reduced my pleasant portion into a desolate wilderness.
- 11 They have made it a desolation ;
Through me it mourneth being desolate ;
The whole land is made desolate,
Yet there is no man that layeth it to heart.
- 12 Upon all the plains in the wilderness are the spoilers come ;
Surely the sword by JEHOVAH's appointment devoureth,

From one end of the land even unto the other
end of the land,

No flesh hath any peace.

- 13 They have sown wheat, and have reaped thorns,
They have possessed, and shall not be benefited ;
But they shall be disappointed of your crops,
Because of the fierceness of the wrath of JEHO-
VAH.

- 14 THUS saith JEHOVAH ;
With regard to all my evil neighbours,
Who molest the inheritance which I have caus-
ed my people Israel to inherit ;
Behold I will pluck them out of their land,
And the house of Judah will I pluck out from
among them.

- 15 And it shall be, after that I shall have plucked
them out,
I will again have compassion on them, and bring
them back,
Every one to his own possession,
And every one to his own land.

- 16 And it shall be, if they will indeed learn the
ways of my people,
To swear by my name, As JEHOVAH liveth,
Like as they have taught my people to swear by
Baal ;
Then shall they be built in the midst of my peo-
ple.

- 17 But if they will not comply,
Then will I pluck up that nation,
Plucking up and destroying, saith JEHOVAH.

CHAP. XIII.

- 1 **THUS SAID JEHOVAH UNTO ME, Go and get**
thee a linen girdle, and put it upon thy loins, but
2 put it not in water. And I got the girdle accord-
ing to the word of JEHOVAH, and I put it upon
3 my loins. And the word of JEHOVAH came un-
4 to me a second time, saying, Take the girdle
which thou hast gotten, which is upon thy loins,
and arise, go to Euphrates, and hide it there in a
5 hole of the rock. So I went and hid it near Eu-
6 phrates, as JEHOVAH had commanded me. And
it came to pass after many days, that JEHOVAH
said unto me, Arise, go to Euphrates, and take
from thence the girdle, which I commanded thee
7 to hide there. And I went to Euphrates, and
dugged, and took the girdle from the place where
I had hidden it; and, behold, the girdle was mar-
8 red, so that it was good for nothing. And the
word of JEHOVAH came unto me, saying,
9 **Thus saith JEHOVAH;**
After this manner will I mar the excellency of
Judah,
And the excellency of Jerusalem exceedingly;
10 This wicked people,
Who refuse to hearken to my words,
Who walk after the lust of their own heart,
And have gone after strange gods,
To serve them, and to bow down to them;
And they shall be as this girdle,
Which is good for nothing.
11 For as the girdle cleaveth unto the loins of a man;
So caused I to cleave unto me
The whole house of Israel,

And the whole house of Judah, saith JEHOVAH;
To be unto me a people,
And a name, and a praise, and a glory;
But they hearkened not.

12 THOU shalt also speak unto them this word,
Thus saith JEHOVAH, the God of Israel;
Every vessel shall be filled with wine.
And they will say unto thee, Do we not know
assuredly

That every vessel shall be filled with wine?

13 Then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith JEHOVAH,

Behold I will fill all the inhabitants of this land,
And the kings that sit in David's stead upon his
throne,

And the priests, and the prophets,
And all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with drunkenness :

14 And I will dash them one against another,
And the fathers and the children together, saith
JEHOVAH ;

I will not pity, neither will I spare,
Neither will I shew mercy so as not to destroy
them.

15 Hear ye, and attend ; be not lifted up ;
Surely JEHOVAH hath spoken :

16 Give ye glory unto JEHOVAH your God,
Before it grows dark,
And before your feet stumble upon the mountains
of gloominess ;
And when ye look for light,
It there be turned into the shadow of death, even
gross darkness.

17 But if ye will not hear it, whilst ye are in secure
places ;

My soul shall mourn from forth of its body, and
shall weep sorely,
And mine eye shall run down with tears,
Because the flock of JEHOVAH is carried into captivity.

18 Say to the king and to the queen, humble yourselves, sit ye down;
For he will cause to fall from your heads the diadem of your glory.

19 The cities of the south are shut up, and none openeth;
The captivity of Judah is fully effected, the captivity of one and all.

20 Lift up your eyes, and see those that are coming from the north;
Where is the flock that was given thee, the sheep of thy glory?

21 What wilt thou say, when visitation shall come upon thee?
Seeing it is thou that teachest them to be rulers in chief over thee;
Shall not pangs seize thee, like as a woman in travail?

22 And when thou shalt say in thine heart, Wherefore have these things befallen me?
For the abundance of thine iniquity thy skirts are uncovered, thy heels are left bare.

23 Can a Cushite change his skin, or a leopard his spots?

Then may ye prevail with them to do good who have learned to do evil.

24 I have therefore scattered them as the stubble passing before the wind of the desert.

25 This is thy lot, thy measured portion from me, saith JEHOVAH,

Who hast forgotten me, and hast trusted in falsehood :

26 Therefore have I uncovered thy skirts before thee,
That thy shame may be seen, thine adulteries, and
thy neighings.

27 Thou hast devised thy whoredom upon the hills,
In the fields I have seen thine abominations :

Wo unto thee, O Jerusalem ! thou wilt not be
clean ;

How much longer yet shall it be before thou wilt ?

CHAP. XIV.

1 THE WORD OF JEHOVAH WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH.

2 BECAUSE of the drought Judah mourneth,
And the gates thereof languish ;
They are in deep mourning for the land ;
And the cry of Jerusalem is gone up.

3 The nobles also have sent their younger ones for
water ;

They came to the pits ; they found no water ;

They returned with their vessels empty ;

They were ashamed and confounded,

They covered their heads.

4 Because the ground is crumbled to dust,
Forasmuch as there hath been no rain in the land,
The husbandmen were ashamed ;
They covered their heads.

5 When the hind also had calved in the fields,
Then it was deserted, because there was no grass.

6 And the wild asses stood on the plains,
They snuffed up the wind like dragons ;
Their eyes were wasted,
Because there was no herbage.

7 Though our iniquities have testified against us,

O JEHOVAH, do thou act with a regard to thine own name ;

For our apostasies have been many ;

We have sinned against thee.

8 O thou hope of Israel,

His saviour in time of distress,

Wherefore wilt thou be as a stranger in the land ?

And as a traveller that turneth in for a night's lodging ?

9 Wherefore wilt thou be as one in a deep sleep ?

As a man that hath no power to save ?

Seeing thou art in the midst of us, O JEHOVAH,

And we are called by thy name,

Desert us not.

10 Thus hath JEHOVAH said concerning this people,

They have so loved to wander,

Their feet have they not refrained,

When JEHOVAH bruised them not :

Now will he call their iniquity to remembrance,

And will take account of their sins.

11 Therefore said JEHOVAH unto me,

Pray not for this people in a friendly manner.

12 When they fast, I will not hearken to their cry ;

And when they offer a burnt-offering or a meat-offering, I will not accept them ;

But by sword, and by famine, and by pestilence, I will make an end of them.

13 Then said I, Alas ! O Lord JEHOVAH !

Behold the prophets say unto them,

Ye shall not see the sword,

Neither shall famine come unto you ;

But peace will I assuredly give you in this place.

14 Then said JEHOVAH unto me ;

The prophets prophesy falsely in my name :

I have not sent them, nor commissioned them.
Neither have I spoken unto them ;
A false vision, and divination, and vanity,
And the guile of their own heart, do these prophesy unto you.

- 15 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH ;
As concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name,
Though I have not sent them, but they say of themselves,
Sword and famine shall not be in this land ;
By sword and by famine shall those prophets be consumed.

- 16 And the people, to whom these prophesy,
Shall be cast forth in the streets of Jerusalem
By means of the famine and the sword ;
And they shall have none to bury them ;
They, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters ;

And I will pour upon them their own wickedness.

- 17 And thou shalt say unto them this word ;
Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day,
And let them not cease ;
Because a great hurt hath she received,
The virgin daughter of my people,
A blow that is exceedingly painful.

- 18 If I go out into the fields,
Then behold those that are slain by the sword !
And when I enter the city,
Then behold those that pine with famine !
Yet both the prophet and also the priest
Go trafficking about the city, and take no knowledge.

- 19 Hast thou altogether rejected Judah?
Hath thy soul abhorred Sion?
Wherefore hast thou smitten us, and we have no
remedy?
We look for peace, and there is no good,
For a time of healing, and behold terror?
- 20 We acknowledge, O JEHOVAH, our wickedness,
And the iniquity of our fathers;
For we have sinned against thee.
- 21 Spurn us not for thy name's sake,
Dishonour not the throne of thy glory;
Call to mind, annul not thy covenant with us.
- 22 Are there among the vanities of the heathen any
that can cause rain?
Or can the heavens give showers?
Art not thou He, O JEHOVAH our God?
And we have looked up to thee,
Because thou hast done all these things.

CHAP. XV.

- 1 THEN said JEHOVAH unto me;
Though Moses or Samuel should stand before me,
My soul would not be moved in favour of this
people;
Send them away from before me, and let them de-
part.
- 2 And it shall be, when they shall say unto thee,
Whither shall we depart?
Then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith JEHO-
VAH;
They that are for death, unto death;
And they that are for the sword, unto the sword;
And they that are for famine, unto famine;
And they that are for captivity, unto captivity.

- 3 And I will commission against them four species,
saith JEHOVAH;
The sword to slay, and the dogs to drag about,
And the birds of the heavens, and the beasts of
the earth,
To devour and to destroy.
- 4 And I will give them up to vexation in all kingdoms of the earth,
On account of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah
king of Judah,
Because of all that he did in Jerusalem.
- 5 For who shall have pity upon thee, O Jerusalem?
Or who shall condole with thee?
Or who shall turn aside to solicit for thy welfare?
- 6 Thou hast forsaken me, saith JEHOVAH,
Thou wilt go backward:
Therefore have I stretched out my hand against
thee, and destroyed thee.
- 7 I am weary of forbearing them; therefore I have
scattered them with a van;
With my whirlwind have I rendered the land
childless;
I have destroyed my people;
From their ways have they not returned.
- 8 Their widows have been multiplied by me beyond the sand of the sea,
I have brought against their mother a chosen one,
spoiling at noonday:
I have caused to fall upon her suddenly an enemy
and terrors.
- 9 She that hath born seven is become feeble,
She hath given up the ghost;
Her sun is gone down while it is yet day;
She is ashamed and confounded;

And their remnant will I give to the sword
Before the face of their enemies, saith JEHOVAH.

10 Wo unto me, O my mother!
For thou hast born me a man of strife,
And a man of contention throughout the whole
land;

Yet have I neither lent on usury, nor have they
taken usury of me.

11 They have reviled me all of them, said JEHO-
VAH;

Have I not brought thee off advantageously?
Have I not stood by thee in time of evil,
And in time of distress against the enemy?

12 Shall he break iron in pieces,
Iron from the north, and brass?

13 Thy substance, and thy treasures, will I give for
spoil,
Not for price, but for all thy sins, even in all thy
borders:

14 And I will cause [them] to pass with thine ene-
mies into a land thou hast not known;
Because a fire is kindled in mine anger that shall
burn upon you.

15 THOU hast known, O JEHOVAH, remember me,
And visit me, and avenge me of my persecutors;
Within the length of thine anger comprehend me
not;

Know that for thy sake I have undergone reproach.

16 Thy words were found, and I entertained them;
And thy commission was joy to me, and the de-
light of my heart:

Because I was called by thy name,
O JEHOVAH, God of hosts.

17 I have not sat in the assembly of those that make
merry;

Neither have I rejoiced because of thy hand ;
I sat solitary, because thou filledst me with indignation.

- 18 Wherefore hath my grief been unremitting ?
And my wound mortal, refusing to be healed ?
Wilt thou be altogether unto me
As the lying of waters that are not sure ?
- 19 Whereupon thus said JEHOVAH,
If thou wilt turn when I turn thee, thou shalt
stand before me ;
And if thou wilt separate the precious from the
vile, thou shalt be as my mouth ;
These shall turn to thee,
And thou shalt not turn to them.
- 20 And I will make thee against this people a strong
wall of brass ;
When they shall war against thee, they shall not
prevail over thee ;
For I will be with thee to save thee,
And to deliver thee, saith JEHOVAH.
- 21 And I will deliver thee out of the hand of wicked men,
And I will rescue thee out of the grasp of formidable ones.

CHAP. XVI.

- 1 THE WORD OF JEHOVAH CAME ALSO UNTO ME, SAY-
ING,
- 2 Thou shalt not take unto thee a wife,
Neither shall there be unto thee sons and daughters in this place.
- 3 For thus saith JEHOVAH ;
As concerning the sons and concerning the daughters,

Those that are born in this place ;
And concerning their mothers that bare them,
And concerning their fathers that beget them,
in this land ;

4 They shall die of mortal diseases,
They shall not be lamented nor buried,
They shall be for dung upon the face of the
ground ;

By sword also and by famine shall they be consumed ;

And their carcases shall be for meat
Unto the fowls of the heavens, and to the beasts
of the earth.

5 Surely thus said JEHOVAH ;
Enter not into the house of mourning,
Neither go to one that lamenteth,
Nor condole with them ;
For I have withdrawn my peace from this people,
saith JEHOVAH,

Loving-kindness and tender mercies.

6 And they shall die, great and small, in this land,
They shall not be buried nor lamented,
No one shall cut himself for them,
Nor shall any one make himself bald for them.

7 Neither shall men break bread among them,
On account of a mourner, to comfort him over a
deceased [friend] ;

Nor shall men make them drink of the cup of
consolations,

Because of one's father, or because of one's mother.

8 Also enter not into the house of feasting,
To sit down with them to eat and to drink.

9 For thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of
Israel ;

Behold I am about to cause to cease from this place,
Before your eyes, and in your days,
The voice of joy, and the voice of mirth,
The voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the
bride.

- 10 AND it shall be, when thou shalt have declared
unto this people all these things ; and they shall
say unto thee, Wherefore hath JEHOVAH pronoun-
ced against us all this great evil ? and what is our
iniquity, and what our sin, which we have com-
11 mitted against JEHOVAH our God ? then shalt
thou say unto them ;

BECAUSE your fathers have forsaken me, saith
JEHOVAH,

- And have followed after strange gods,
And have served them, and worshipped them,
And have forsaken me, and not kept my law :
12 And ye yourselves have done still more wickedly
than your fathers,
And behold ye follow every one the lusts of his
own wicked heart,
Without hearkening unto me ;
13 Therefore will I cast you forth from out of this
land
Into the land which ye have not known, ye nor
your fathers ;
And there shall ye serve strange gods day and
night ;
Because I will shew you no favour.

- 14 After this, behold, the days shall come, saith
JEHOVAH,
When it shall no more be said, As JEHOVAH liveth,
Who brought up the children of Israel out of the
land of Egypt :

- 15 But, As JEHOVAH liveth,
Who brought up the children of Israel out of the
north country,
And out of all the lands whither he had driven
them;
For I will cause them to return unto their own land,
Which I gave unto their fathers.
- 16 Behold I will send for many fishers,
Saith JEHOVAH, and they shall fish them :
And afterwards I will send for many hunters,
And they shall hunt them from every mountain,
And from every hill, and from the holes of the
rocks.
- 17 For mine eyes are upon all their ways ;
They are not hidden from before my face ;
Neither is their iniquity concealed from the sight
of mine eyes.
- 18 And I will requite in a double proportion their
iniquity and their sin,
Because they have defiled my land by the vileness
of their odious practices,
And their abominations have overspread mine he-
ritage.
- 19 O JEHOVAH, my strength, and my fortress,
And my refuge in the day of distress ;
To thee shall the nations come from the ends of
the earth,
And shall say, Truly our fathers have falsely pos-
sessed vanity ;
And there is not amongst them any that can profit.
- 20 Shall man make gods for himself,
When they themselves are not gods?
- 21 Therefore behold I, instructing them at this time,
Will make known to them my hand and my might;
And they shall know that my name is JEHOVAH.

CHAP. XVII.

- 1 THE sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron,
With the point of a diamond it is engraved,
Upon the tablet of their heart,
And upon the horns of their altars :
- 2 While their children remember their altars and
their groves,
Near the green trees,
And upon the highest hills.
- 3 O my mountain, thy substance in the field,
And all thy stores will I give up to pillage,
Thy strong holds, because of sin, throughout all
thy borders.
- 4 And I will dismiss thy glory from the inheritance
Which I have given unto thee ;
And I will cause thee to serve thine enemies in a
land
Which thou hast not known ;
Because a fire is kindled in mine anger,
It shall burn continually.
- THUS saith JEHOVAH ;
- 5 Cursed is the man who putteth his trust in man,
And maketh flesh his arm,
And whose heart turneth away from JEHOVAH.
- 6 For he shall be like a blasted tree upon the waste,
Which is not sensible when good cometh ;
But is continually exposed to scorching heats in
the desert,
A barren land, and uninhabitable.
- 7 Blessed is the man who trusteth in JEHOVAH,
And the object of whose confidence JEHOVAH is.
- 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the water side,

Which by the side of the stream sendeth forth
its roots,

And is not sensible when heat cometh ;

But its leaf is green,

And in a year of drought it is without concern,

Nor doth it decline bearing fruit.

9 THE heart is wily above all things ;

It is even past all hope ; who can know it ?

10 I JEHOVAH search out the heart,

And try the reins ;

To give to every man according to his ways,

And according to the fruit of his doings.

11 [As] the Kore, that hatcheth what it doth not lay ;

[So is] he that getteth riches, and not according
to right :

In the midst of his days he shall relinquish them,

And he shall be a felon in his latter end.

12 A glorious throne, set on high from the begin-
ning,

[Is] the place of our sanctuary, the object of the
hope of Israel.

13 O JEHOVAH, all that forsake thee shall be confound-
ed,

And shall be recorded in the earth for revolters,

Because they have forsaken JEHOVAH, a fountain
of living waters.

14 Heal me, O JEHOVAH, and I shall be healed ;

Save me, and I shall be saved ;

For thou art the object of my praise.

15 BEHOLD, these say unto me,

Where is the word of JEHOVAH ? let it come now.

16 But I have not been in haste to outrun thy guid-
ance ;

And the fatal day have I not desired ;

Thou knowest that which hath issued from my lips,
It hath been before thy face.

17 Be not thou a terror unto me,

Thou art my refuge in the day of adversity,

18 Let my persecutors be confounded, but let not me
be confounded ;

Let them be dismayed, but let not me dismayed ;

Bring thou upon them the day of calamity,

And with redoubled destruction destroy them.

19 Thus said JEHOVAH unto me ;

Go and stand in the gate of the children of

the people, through which the kings of Judah

come in, and through which they go out, and in

20 all the gates of Jerusalem : And thou shalt say

unto them, Hear ye the word of JEHOVAH, O ye

kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all ye inhabi-

tants of Jerusalem, that pass through these gates.

21 Thus saith JEHOVAH, Take heed unto yourselves,

and carry no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring

22 ye in through the gates of Jerusalem ; neither bring

forth any burden out of your houses on the sab-

bath day, neither transact ye any manner of busi-

ness ; but keep ye holy the sabbath day ; accord-

23 ing as I commanded your fathers : but they hear-

kened not nor inclined their ear, but stiffened their

neck, so as not to hear, and so as not to receive

24 instruction. And it shall be, if ye will indeed

hearken unto me, saith JEHOVAH, so as not to

bring in any burden through the gates of this

city on the sabbath day, but to keep holy the sab-

bath day, without transacting thereon any manner

25 of business : then shall there enter in at the gates

of this city kings and princes sitting upon the

throne of David, riding in chariots, and upon horses,



- they, and their chieftains, men of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall be
26 established for ever. And there shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the environs of Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the hill country, and from the south, persons bringing burntofferings, and sacrifices, and meatofferings, and incense, and bringing offerings of praise, unto the house of JEHOVAH.
27 But if ye will not hearken unto me, to keep holy the sabbath day, and not to carry any burden, and go through the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall consume the palaces of Jerusalem; and it shall not be extinguished.

CHAP. XVIII.

- 1 THE WORD WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOVAH, SAYING,
2 ARISE and go down to the potter's house, and
3 there I will cause thee to hear my words. So I went down to the potter's house, and behold he
4 was at work upon the stones. And the vessel which he was making of clay was marred by the hand of the potter; and he began anew, and made it another vessel, as it seemed meet to the potter
5 to make. Then came the word of JEHOVAH unto me, saying,
6 CANNOT I do after the manner of this potter With respect to you, O house of Israel? saith JEHOVAH.
Behold as the clay is at the disposal of the potter, So are ye at my disposal, O house of Israel.
7 Whosoever I shall speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom,

- Of plucking up, casting down, and destroying ;
8 And that nation concerning which I have spoken
shall turn from its wickedness ;
I also will repent of the evil which I proposed to
do unto it.
- 9 And whensoever I shall speak concerning a nation,
and concerning a kingdom,
Of building up and of planting ;
10 And it shall do that which is evil in my sight,
and not hearken unto my voice :
I also will repent of the good which I said I
would do for its benefit.
- 11 AND now speak, I pray thee, unto the men of
Judah,
And unto the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying,
Thus saith JEHOVAH ;
Behold I imagine evil against you,
And devise against you a device ;
Return ye now every man from his evil way,
And amend your ways and your doings.
- 12 But they said, It is a thing not to be hoped :
For after our own imaginations will we go,
And we will practise every one the lust of his
evil heart.
- 13 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH ;
Enquire now among the nations,
Who hath heard such things as these ?
The virgin of Israel hath practised lewdness in
a very high degree.
- 14 Will the snow leave Lebanon before any rock of
the field ?
Will men dig for strange waters perversely in pre-
ference to such as flow ?
- 15 But my people have forgotten me, they have burn-
ed incense to vanity ;

- And paths of ancient use have caused them to
stumble in their ways,
Whilst they walk in paths of a road not thrown up :
16 Making their land an object of astonishment, of
perpetual hissing ;
Every one that passeth by it shall be astonished,
and shall shake his head.
- 17 Like an east wind will I scatter them before the
face of an enemy ;
I will turn my back to them, and not my face, in
the day of their destruction.
- 18 THEN said they, Come and let us devise mea-
sures against Jeremiah : for the law shall not fail
from the priest, nor counsel from the wise man,
nor the word from the prophet : Come and let us
smite him on the tongue, and let us not regard
any of his words.
- 19 GIVE heed unto me, O JEHOVAH,
And listen to the voice of my adversaries.
- 20 Shall evil be rendered for good ?
Surely they have digged a pit for my soul.
Remember how I have stood before thee,
To intercede for their welfare,
To turn away thine-anger from them,
- 21 Therefore give thou up their sons unto famine,
And drain them by means of the sword ;
Let their women be childless and widows,
And let their men be killed by pestilence,
Their young men slain by the sword in battle.
- 22 Let an outcry be heard from their houses,
When thou shalt bring a troop upon them suddenly ;
Because they have digged a pit to catch me,
And snares have they privily laid for my feet,
- 23 But thou, O JEHOVAH, hast known

Their whole counsel against my life :
Accept no atonement for their iniquity,
And blot not out their sin from before thee :
But let them be overthrown in thy presence ;
In the time of thy wrath proceed against them.

CHAP. XIX.

- 1 Thus said JEHOVAH unto me ; Go and get thee
a potter's earthen vessel, and some of the elders
of the people and of the elders of the priests.
- 2 And thou shalt go forth unto the valley of the
son of Hinnom, which lieth before the gate Har-
sith, and shalt proclaim there the words which I
- 3 shall speak unto thee. And thou shalt say, Hear
ye the word of JEHOVAH, O ye kings of Judah,
and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus saith JE-
HOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel ; Behold I am
about to bring evil upon this place, which who-
- 4 soever heareth, both his ears shall ring : because
they have deserted me, and have alienated this
place, and have burned incense in it to strange
gods, whom they have not known ; they and their
fathers, and the kings of Judah ; and have filled
- 5 this place with the blood of innocents : and have
erected the high places of Baal, to burn their sons
in the fire for burntofferings to Baal ; which I en-
joined not, nor commanded, nor was it accepta-
- 6 ble unto me. Therefore behold the days are com-
ing, saith JEHOVAH, that this place shall no more
be called Topheth, or The valley of the son of
Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter. For I
will defeat the counsel of Judah and of Jerusa-
lem in this place ; and I will cause them to fall
by the sword before their enemies, and by the

- hand of them that seek their lives; and their dead bodies will I give for meat unto the fowls of the heavens, and unto the beasts of the earth :
- 8 And I will make this city an object of astonishment and of hissing : every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss because of all
- 9 its plagues. And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters ; and they shall eat every one the flesh of his companion during the siege and the distress, with which their enemies and those that seek their lives
- 10 shall straiten them. Then shalt thou break the vessel in the sight of the men that go with thee ;
- 11 and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts : So will I break this people and this city as he breaketh the potter's vessel, which cannot be made whole again : and men shall bury in Topheth, until there be no room to bury. Thus will I do unto this place, saith JEHOVAH, and to the inhabitants thereof, even so as to make
- 13 this city like Topheth. And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be as the place Topheth, unclean ; together with all the houses, on the roofs of which they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, pouring out also oblations unto strange gods.
- 14 AND Jeremiah came from Topheth, whither JEHOVAH had sent him to prophesy ; and stood in the court of the house of JEHOVAH, and said
- 15 to all the people, Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel ; Behold I am about to bring upon this city, and upon all the cities belonging to it, all the evil which I have denounced against it ; because they have stiffened their neck so as not to hearken to my words.

CHAP. XX.

- 1 When Pashur the son of Immer the priest
(who was also the commanding officer in the
house of JEHOVAH) heard Jeremiah prooheying
2 these things : then Pashur smote Jeremiah the
prophet, and committed him to the house of cor-
rection, which was in the higher gate of Benja-
3 min, which was near the house of JEHOVAH. And
it came to pass the next day, when Pashur re-
leased Jeremiah out of the house of correction,
that Jeremiah said unto him, JEHOVAH hath cal-
led thy name not Pashur, but Magor-missabib.
4 For thus saith JEHOVAH, Behold I am about to
make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy
friends ; and they shall fall by the sword of
their enemies, thine eyes also looking on ; and
all Judah will I give into the hand of the king
of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive unto
Babylon, and shall smite them with the sword.
5 And I will give all the strength of this city, and
all its industry, and all that is valuable in it,
and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I
give into the hands of their enemies, and they
shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them
6 to Babylon. And thou Pashur, and all that dwell
in thy house, ye shall go into captivity ; and
thou shalt enter Babylon, and there thou shalt
die ; and there thou shalt be buried, thou and
all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied
falsely.
- 7 THOU didst allure me, O JEHOVAH, and I was
allured ;
Thou didst encourage me, and didst prevail ;

- I am become a laughing stock every day,
Ridicule hath spent its whole force upon me.
- 8 For as often as I speak,
Whether I cry out against injustice, or proclaim
devastation,
The word of JEHOVAH is turned against me
Into matter of reproach and derision continually.
- 9 But when I say, I will not make mention of it,
Neither will I speak any more in its name ;
Then it becomes in my heart as a burning fire,
being pent up within my bones :
And though I weary myself with refraining, I
find it not in my power.
- 10 Surely I have heard the babbling of many, [saying]
Report ye terror all around, and we will report it :
All my familiar friends watch for my halting,
Perhaps [say they] he may be drawn aside, so
that we may prevail against him,
And we may take our revenge of him.
- 11 But JEHOVAH is on my side, as a formidable
champion ;
Therefore shall my persecutors stumble, and shall
not prevail ;
They are exceedingly ashamed, because they
have not succeeded,
With an everlasting shame, that shall not be for-
gotten.
- 12 And, O JEHOVAH of hosts, who puttest the
righteous to trial,
Who discernest the reins and the heart,
I shall see thy vengeance upon them,
For unto thee have I laid open my wrongs.
- 13 Sing ye to JEHOVAH, praise ye JEHOVAH,
Because he hath delivered the soul of the poor
out of the hand of evil-doers.

- 14 CURSED be the day on which I was born,
The day on which my mother bare me, let it not
be blessed.
- 15 Cursed be the man who brought the news to my
father,
Saying, There is a male child born unto thee;
Making him exceedingly glad.
- 16 And let that man be as the cities,
Which JEHOVAH overthrew, and repented not;
Even hearing an outcry in the morning,
And an alarm at the time of noon;
- 17 Who did not slay me from the womb,
So that my mother might have been my grave,
Even the womb of her that conceived me, for
ever.
- 18 Wherefore came I forth from the womb,
To experience disquietude and sorrow,
And that my days should be spent in shame?

CHAP. XXII.

- 1 THUS said JEHOVAH; Go down to the house
of the king of Judah, and thou shalt speak there
this word, and shalt say,
- 2 HEAR the word of JEHOVAH, O king of Judah,
That sittest upon the throne of David,
Thou, and thy servants, and thy people,
That enter in through these gates:
- 3 Thus saith JEHOVAH;
Do right and justice,
And deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the
oppressor,
And the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow,
Defraud ye not, nor injure by violence,
Neither shed innocent blood in this place.

- 4 For if ye shall indeed do according to this word,
Then shall there enter in through the gates of
this house
Kings sitting in the stead of David upon his
throne,
Riding in chariots, and upon horses,
[Each one] himself, and his servants, and his
people.
- 5 But if ye will not hearken unto these words,
By myself have I sworn, saith JEHOVAH,
Surely this house shall become a desolation.
- 6 For thus hath JEHOVAH said
Concerning the house of the king of Judah ;
Gilead art thou through me, O summit of Leba-
non ;
Surely I will make thee a desart,
Cities not inhabited.
- 7 And I will commission against thee destroyers,
Every man and his weapons ;
And they shall cut down the choice of thy cedars,
And shall cast [them] upon the fire.
- 8 And many nations shall pass by this city,
And they shall say one to another,
Wherefore hath JEHOVAH done thus unto this
great city ?
- 9 Then shall they answer, Because they have for-
saken the covenant of JEHOVAH their God,
And they have worshipped strange gods, and
served them.
- 10 WEEP ye not for him that is dead,
Neither be sorry for him :
Weep ye sorely for him that is gone away,
For he shall return no more,
Nor see his native land.

- 11 For thus saith JEHOVAH,
Concerning Shallum the son of Josiah king of
Judah,
Who reigned instead of Josiah his father,
Who went forth from this place ;
He shall not return thither any more :
- 12 But in the place, whither they have carried him
away captive, he shall die,
And shall see this land no more.
- 13 Wo unto him that buildeth his house with
injustice,
And his upper apartments with wrong ;
That exacteth his neighbour's service for nought,
And payeth him not for his work ;
- 14 That saith, I will build for myself
A spacious house, and lofty apartments.
Cutting out also for himself windows,
And ceiling with cedar, and painting with ver-
milion.
- 15 Shalt thou reign, because thou frettest thyself
in cedar ?
Did not thy father eat and drink,
And do right and justice ?
Then he enjoyed prosperity.
- 16 He maintained the cause of the afflicted and
needy ;
Was not this then prosperity,
The knowing of me ? saith JEHOVAH.
- 17 But thine eyes and thine heart are not
But upon thine inordinate desires,
And upon the blood of the innocent, to shed [it],
And upon oppression and upon extortion, to
practise [it].
- 18 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH

Concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah,

They shall not lament for him, [saying]

Ah my brother ! or, Ah sister !

They shall not lament for him, [saying]

Ah lord ! or, Ah her glory !

19 With the burial of an ass shall he be buried,
dragged along,

And cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.

20 Go up to Lebanon, and cry,

And upon Bashan lift up thy voice,

And cry from the borders ;

Surely all that favour thee are broken.

21 I spake unto thee in the times of thy tranquillity,

Thou saidst, I will not hearken ;

Such hath been thy manner from thy youth.

Because thou hast not hearkened unto my voice,

22 A blast shall carry off all thy pastors,

And thy friends shall go into captivity ;

Surely then shalt thou be ashamed,

And shalt be confounded because of all thy
wickedness.

23 O inhabitant of Lebanon,

That makest thy nest in cedars,

How gracious wilt thou be made, when sorrows
come upon thee,

The pain as of a woman in travail !

24 As I live, saith JEHOVAH,

Though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of
Judah were

A signet upon my right hand,

Yet from thence would I pluck thee ;

25 And I will deliver thee into the hand of them
that seek thy life,

- And into the hand of them of whom thou art
afraid,
Even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of
Babylon,
And into the hand of the Chaldeans.
- 26 And I will cast thee forth,
And thy mother that bare thee,
Into a foreign land,
Where ye were not born ;
And there ye shall die.
- 27 But unto the land whither they set their mind
on returning;
Thither shall they not return.
- 28 A contemptible broken idol
Is this man Coniah?
Or a vessel in which none delighteth?
Wherefore are they cast forth, he and his seed,
And are thrown upon a land which they knew not?
- 29 O Earth ! earth ! earth !
Hear the word of JEHOVAH:
- 30 Thus saith JEHOVAH,
Write ye this man childless,
A man that shall not prosper in his days,
For none of his seed shall prosper,
Sitting upon the throne of David,
And reigning any more over Judah.

CHAP. XXIII.

- 1 Ho to the shepherds that destroy
And scatter the sheep of my pasture ! saith JE-
HOVAH.
- 2 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH, the God of Israel ;
With regard to the shepherds that feed my people,
Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them
away,

And have not taken care of them ;
Behold I am about to visit upon you
The evil of your doings, saith JEHOVAH.

3 But I will gather the remnant of my flock
From all the countries whither I have driven them ;
And I will bring them back to their own fold,
And they shall be fruitful and shall multiply.

4 And I will raise up shepherds over them, who
shall feed them,
So that they shall not fear any more, nor be dis-
mayed,

Nor shall they be visited, saith JEHOVAH.

5 Behold the days are coming, saith JEHOVAH,
That I will raise up unto David a righteous Branch,
And a King shall reign and act wisely,
And shall execute judgment and justice in the
land.

6 In his days Judah shall be saved,
And Israel shall dwell in security ;
And this is the name by which JEHOVAH shall
call him, OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

7 After this, behold, the days shall come, saith
JEHOVAH,
When they shall no more say, As JEHOVAH liveth,
Who brought up the children of Israel out of the
land of Egypt :

8 But, As JEHOVAH liveth, who brought up,
And who conducted the seed of the house of
Israel from the north country,
And from all countries whither I had driven
them,
That they might dwell in their own soil.

CONCERNING THE PROPHETS.

- 9 My heart is broken within me,
All my bones are shaken,
I am become like a drunken man,
And as a man whom wine hath overcome,
Because of JEHOVAH,
And because of his sacred words.
- 10 Surely the land is filled with adulterers;
Surely because of these the land mourneth;
The pastures of the waste are dried up;
Their will also hath been wickedness,
And their might without right.
- 11 Yea both the prophet and the priest have acted
perversely,
Even in my house have I found their wickedness,
saith JEHOVAH.
- 12 Therefore shall their way become as slippery
places,
Into darkness shall they be thrust, and shall fall
therein:
Surely I will bring upon them evil,
The year of their visitation, saith JEHOVAH.
- 13 As in the prophets of Samaria I beheld that
which was disgusting;
They prophesied in the name of Baal, and caused
my people Israel to err:
- 14 So in the prophets of Jerusalem have I seen a
horrible thing;
Committing adultery and walking in falsehood;
They will also strengthen the hands of wicked
doers,
So that none will turn from his wickedness;
They are become to me all of them as Sodom,

And her inhabitants as Gomorrah.

- 15 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts concerning the prophets;

Behold I will feed them with wormwood,

And I will give them water of hemlock to drink :

Because from the prophets of Jerusalem

Perverseness is gone forth into the whole land.

- 16 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts,

Hearken not unto the words of the prophets,

Who, instilling vain notions into you,

Utter a vision of their own heart,

Not speaking after the mouth of JEHOVAH ;

- 17 Saying unto those that make light of the word of JEHOVAH,

Peace shall be unto you ;

And whilst every one goeth after the lusts of his own heart, they have said,

Evil shall not come upon you.

- 18 For who hath stood in the privy council of JEHOVAH,

And hath seen and heard the matter ?

Or who hath listened to and heard his words ?

- 19 Behold the whirlwind of JEHOVAH, it goeth forth hot,

Even a settling whirlwind, upon the head of the wicked it shall settle.

- 20 The anger of JEHOVAH shall not turn back, Until he hath wrought, and until he hath completed the purpose of his heart :

In the latter days ye shall understand it clearly.

- 21 I sent not these prophets, but they ran of themselves ;

I spake not to them, but of themselves they prophesied.

- 22 But if they had been present in my privy council,
Then would they have caused my people to hear
my words,
And would have turned them from their evil way,
And from the wickedness of their doings.
- 23 Am I a God near at hand, saith JEHOVAH,
And not a God afar off?
- 24 Can any one hide himself in secret places,
So that I shall not see him? saith JEHOVAH.
The heavens and the earth
Do not I fill? saith JEHOVAH.
- 25 I have heard what the prophets have said,
That prophecy falsely in my name,
Saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed;
- 26 How long shall the fire be in the heart?
The prophets are prophets of falsehood,
And prophets of the fraud of their own heart:
- 27 Who study to make my people forget my name
through their dreams,
Which they relate every one to his neighbour,
Like as their fathers have forgotten my name
through Baal.
- 28 The prophet who hath a dream, let him tell a
dream;
But he that hath my word, let him speak my
word truly:
What hath chaff to do with the wheat? saith
JEHOVAH.
- 29 Is not the power of my word like fire? saith JE-
HOVAH;
And like a hammer that breaketh a rock in pieces?
- 30 Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets,
saith JEHOVAH,
That purloin my words, every one from his
neighbour.

- 31 Behold I am against the prophets, saith JEHOVAH,
That take their own tongue, and say, He hath
said.
- 32 Behold I am against prophets of false dreams,
saith JEHOVAH,
Who have also related them, and seduced my
people by their groundless lies ;
But I sent them not, nor commissioned them ;
Neither will they profit this people at all, saith
JEHOVAH.
- 33 And when this people shall ask thee,
Or a prophet, or a priest, saying,
What is the burden of JEHOVAH ?
Then shalt thou say unto them, Ye are the burden,
And I will cast you off, saith JEHOVAH.
- 34 And the prophet, and the priest, and the people,
Which shall say, The burden of JEHOVAH,
I will even punish that man and his house.
- 35 Thus shall ye speak every one to his neighbour,
And every one to his brother,
What hath JEHOVAH answered ?
And, What hath JEHOVAH spoken ?
- 36 But the burden of JEHOVAH shall ye mention no
more :
For the burden of every man shall be his own
word ;
And ye have perverted the words of the living God,
Of JEHOVAH of hosts, our God.
- 37 Thus shalt thou say to the prophet,
What hath JEHOVAH answered thee ?
And, What hath JEHOVAH spoken ?
- 38 But if ye will say, The burden of JEHOVAH ;
For this cause thus saith JEHOVAH,
Because ye say this word, The burden of JEHO-
VAH ;

- Although I sent unto you, saying,
Ye shall not say, The burden of JEHOVAH;
39 Therefore behold I will both take you up altogether,
And I will cast you off, together with the city,
Which I gave to you and your fathers, from out
of my presence.
40 And I will bring upon you an everlasting reproach,
And a perpetual disgrace, which shall not be
forgotten.

CHAP. XXV.

- 1 THE WORD WHICH CAME UNTO JEREMIAH CONCERNING
ALL THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH, IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF
JEHOIAKIM THE SON OF JOSIAH KING OF JUDAH (THE
SAME WAS THE FIRST YEAR OF NEBUCHADREZZAR KING
OF BABYLON)
2 WHICH Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all
the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants
3 of Jerusalem, saying, From the thirteenth year of
Josiah son of Amon king of Judah even unto this
day (this is the three and twentieth year) the
word of JEHOVAH hath come unto me, and I have
spoken unto you, rising early and speaking, but
4 ye have not hearkened: (Also JEHOVAH hath
sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising
early and sending, but ye have not hearkened
5 nor inclined your ear to hear) saying, Return, I
pray you, every one from his evil way, and from
the wickedness of your doings, and dwell ye in
the land, which JEHOVAH gave to you and to
6 your fathers for ever and ever. And go not after
strange gods to serve them, and to worship them;

and provoke me not to anger with the work of
7 your hands; and I will not hurt you. But ye
have not hearkened unto me, saith JEHOVAH, on
purpose to provoke me to anger with the work
8 of your hands, to your own hurt. Therefore
9 thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts; Because ye have
not hearkened unto my words, behold, I am
about to send, and will take all the families of
the north, saith JEHOVAH, and Nebuchadrezzar
king of Babylon my servant, and bring them
against this land, and against the inhabitants
thereof, and against all these nations round about,
and will utterly destroy them, and make them
an astonishment, and a hissing, and perpetual de-
10 solations. And I will cause to cease from them
the voice of joy, and the voice of mirth, the
voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the
bride, the sound of milstones, and the light of a
11 candle. And this whole land shall become a de-
solation, and an astonishment; and these na-
tions shall serve the king of Babylon seventy
12 years. And it shall come to pass when seventy
years are accomplished, I will visit upon the king
of Babylon, and upon his nation, saith JEHOVAH,
their iniquity, and upon the land of Chaldea,
13 and I will make it perpetual desolations. And I
will bring upon that land all my words which I
have spoken concerning it; all that is written in
this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied con-
14 cerning the nations. For of them, even of these,
shall many nations and great kings exact service;
and I will render to them according to their
work, and according to the operation of their
hands.

15 Surely thus said JEHOVAH the God of Israel
unto me, Take the cup of the wine of this wrath
from my hand, and tender it to all the nations
16 to drink, unto whom I shall send thee; and let
them drink, and stagger, and be out of their
wits, because of the sword which I am about to
17 send among them; (So I took the cup at the
hand of JEHOVAH, and tendered it to all the na-
tions to drink, unto whom JEHOVAH had sent
18 me: To Jerusalem, and to the cities of Judah,
and to the kings thereof, and to the princes
thereof, to make them a desolation, and an asto-
nishment, and a hissing, and a curse, as at this
19 day: To Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to his ser-
vants, and to his princes, and to all his people;
20 and to all the intermingled people; And to all
the kings of the land of Uz, and to all the kings
of the land of the Philistines, and to Ashkelon,
and to Gaza, and to Ekron, and to the remnant
21 of Ashdod; To Edom, and to Moab, and to the
22 children of Ammon; And to all the kings of
Tyre, and to all the kings of Sidon, and to the
kings of the region which is by the sea side;
23 And to Dedan, and to Tema, and to Buz, and to
24 all that have their coast insulated; And to all
the kings of Arabia, and to all the kings of the
mingled race of those that dwell in the desert;
25 And to all the kings of Zimri, and to all the
kings of Elam, and to all the kings of Media;
26 And to all the kings of the north, those that are
near, and those that are afar off, one with ano-
ther, and to all the kingdoms of the earth, which
are upon the face of the ground) and the king
27 of Sheshach shall drink after them. And thou

shalt say unto them, Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel, Drink ye, and be drunken, and vomit, and fall so as not to rise again, before the sword which I am about to send
28 among you. And it shall be, in case they shall refuse to take the cup from thine hand to drink, that thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith JEHO-
29 VAH of hosts, Ye shall surely drink. For behold upon the city which is called by my name I begin to bring evil ; and shall ye go altogether unpunished ? Ye shall not go unpunished ; for a sword am I about to call for against all the inhabitants of the earth, saith JEHOVAH of hosts.

30 Thou shalt also prophesy unto them all these words ; and shalt say unto them,

JEHOVAH from on high shall roar,
And from his holy habitation shall he utter his voice ;

He shall roar aloud against his resting place,
A shout like that of the vintagers shall he give
Against all the inhabitants of the earth.

31 A tumult hath reached unto the extremity of the earth ;

Because JEHOVAH hath a controversy with the nations,

He hath entered into judgment with the whole race of the wicked,

Delivering them up unto the sword, saith JEHO-
VAH.

32 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts ;

Behold, evil is going forth from nation to nation,
And a great whirlwind shall be raised from the extreme quarters of the earth :

- 33 And the slain of JEHOVAH in that day shall be
From the one end of the earth even unto the
other end of the earth :
They shall not be lamented, nor gathered, nor
buried,
For dung shall they be upon the surface of the
ground.
- 34 Wail, O ye shepherds, and cry,
And roll yourselves [in ashes] O ye chief of the
flock ;
Because your days for slaughter, and your disper-
sions, are accomplished ;
And ye shall fall like a precious vessel.
- 35 And the means of flight shall be cut off from the
shepherds,
And of escape from the chief of the flock.
- 36 A voice of crying of the shepherds,
And of wailing of the chief of the flock,
Because JEHOVAH hath laid their pasture waste !
- 37 Also the peaceful folds are destroyed
By means of the fierce wrath of JEHOVAH.
- 38 He hath quitted, like a lion, his covert ;
Surely their land is become a desolation,
By means of the fierceness of the oppressor,
And by means of the fierceness of his wrath.

CHAP. XXVI.

- 1 IN THE BEGINNING OF THE REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM THE
SON OF JOSIAH KING OF JUDAH, CAME THIS WORD FROM
JEHOVAH, SAYING,
- 2 THUS saith JEHOVAH, Stand in the court of
the house of JEHOVAH, and speak unto all the
cities of Judah, those that come to worship in
the house of JEHOVAH, all the words which I
have charged thee to speak unto them ; abate not
- 3 a word : if peradventure they will hearken, and

turn every one from his evil way : that I may repent me of the evil which I purpose to do unto them, because of the evil of their doings.

4 And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith JEHOVAH; If ye will not hearken unto me to walk in my
5 law, which I have set before you, to hearken unto the words of my servants the prophets, whom I send unto you, rising up early and sending, even
6 as ye have not hearkened : then will I make this house like Shiloh, and this city will I make a curse among all nations of the earth.

7 And the priests, and the prophets, and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the
8 house of JEHOVAH. And it came to pass, when Jeremiah had done speaking all that JEHOVAH had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests, and the prophets, and all the people apprehended him, saying, Thou shalt surely die. Wherefore hast thou prophesied in the
9 name of JEHOVAH, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be made desolate without an inhabitant? And all the people were assembled together against Jeremiah in the house
10 of JEHOVAH. When the princes of Judah heard these things, they went up from the king's house to the house of JEHOVAH, and sat in the entrance
11 of the new gate of the house of JEHOVAH. Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man is worthy to die; because he hath prophesied concerning this city according as ye have heard with
12 your ears. Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, JEHOVAH hath sent me to prophesy concerning this house,

- and concerning this city, all the words which ye
13 have heard. But now amend ye your ways and
your doings, and hearken unto the voice of JEHOVAH your God ; and JEHOVAH will repent him
of the evil which he hath denounced against you.
- 14 And as for me, behold I am in your power ; do
15 to me as it is good and right in your eyes. Only
know assuredly, that if ye put me to death, surely ye shall bring innocent blood upon yourselves,
and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof : for of a truth JEHOVAH hath sent me
unto you, to speak all these words in your ears.
- 16 Then said the princes and all the people unto the
priests and to the prophets, This man is not worthy to die ; for he hath spoken to us in the name
17 of JEHOVAH our God. Certain also of the elders
of the land rose up and spake to all the assembly
18 of the people, saying, Micah the Morasthite
prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying,
Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, Sion shall be plowed up [as] a field, and Jerusalem shall become
heaps, and the mountain of the house shall be
like the heights of the forest. Did Hezekiah
king of Judah, and all Judah, proceed to put him
19 to death ? Did he not fear JEHOVAH, and intreat
the favour of JEHOVAH, so that JEHOVAH repented
him of the evil which he had pronounced against them ? But we are doing great mischief to
ourselves.
- 20 But there was also a man that prophesied in
the name of JEHOVAH, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath-jearim ; and he prophesied against
this city and against this land according to all the

- 21 words of Jeremiah. And when Jehoiakim the king, and all his great men, and all the princes, heard his words, then the king sought to put him to death: but Urijah heard and was afraid, and
22 fled and went into Egypt. But Jehoiakim the king sent adversaries, Elnathan the son of Achbor, and certain men with him, into Egypt: and
23 they brought Urijah forth out of Egypt, and brought him to king Jehoiakim, who slew him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the buryingplaces of the children of the people.
24 Howbeit the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, that he should not be delivered into the hand of the people to put him to death.

CHAP. XXXV.

- 1 THE WORD WHICH CAME UNTO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOYAH IN THE DAYS OF JEHOIAKIM THE SON OF JOSIAH KING OF JUDAH, SAYING,
2 Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of JEHOVAH, into one of the chambers, and give
3 them wine to drink. Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habatziniah, and his brethren, and all his sons, and the whole house
4 of the Rechabites. And I brought them into the house of JEHOVAH, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan, the son of Igdaliah, a man of God, which was by the chamber of the princes, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door. And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine and cups; and I said unto them,

6 Drink ye wine. But they said, We will not
drink wine : for Jonadab the son of Rechab our
father charged us, saying, Ye shall not drink
7 wine, ye, nor your sons for ever : Neither shall
ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard,
nor have any : but ye shall dwell in tents all your
days, that ye may live many days in the land
8 where ye are strangers. And we have obeyed
the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our fa-
ther in all that he charged us, so as not to drink
wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, and
9 our daughters ; nor to build houses for us to dwell
in ; neither have we vineyard nor field, nor seed :
10 but we have dwelt in tents, and obeyed and done
according to all that Jonadab our father command-
11 ed us. But it came to pass, when Nebuchadrez-
zar king of Babylon was coming up against the
land, that we said, Come, and let us enter into
Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans,
and for fear of the army of the Syrians ; and let
us dwell in Jerusalem.

12 Then came the word of JEHOVAH to Jeremiah,
13 saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God
of Israel ; Go and say unto the men of Judah,
and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will ye not
receive instruction to hearken to my words ? saith
14 JEHOVAH. The words of Jonadab the son of
Rechab, which he gave in charge to his sons not
to drink wine, have been punctually performed ;
for they have drunk no wine unto this day, but
have obeyed the commandment of their father :
I also have spoken unto you, rising up early and
speaking, but ye have not hearkened unto me.
15 And I have sent unto you all my servants the

- prophets, rising up early and sending, saying, Return, I pray you, every one from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after strange gods to serve them; and dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto
- 16 me. Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have fulfilled the commandment of their father, which he commanded them, but this people hath not hearkened unto me: Therefore thus
- 17 saith JEHOVAH, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I am about to bring upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, all the evil which I have denounced against them; because I have spoken unto them, and they have not hearkened; and I have called unto them, and they have not answered.
- 18 And unto the house of the Rechabites said Jeremiah; Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have hearkened unto the commandment of Jonadab your father, and have
- 19 observed all his directions, and have done according to all that he hath charged you; Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel, There shall be no failure of one in the line of Jonadab the son of Rechab, standing before me continually.

CHAP. XXXVI.

- 1 AND IT CAME TO PASS IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF JEHOIAKIM THE SON OF JOSIAH KING OF JUDAH, THAT THIS WORD CAME UNTO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOVAH, SAYING,
- 2 TAKE thee a roll of a book, and write upon it all the words which I have spoken unto thee con-

cerning Israel, and concerning Judah, and concerning all the nations, from the day that I began to speak unto thee, from the days of Josiah,
3 even unto this day. Peradventure the house of Judah may hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them, so as to return every one from his evil way, and I may forgive their iniquity and
4 their sin. And Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of JEHOVAH, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.
5 And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am confined, I cannot go into the house of JEHOVAH:
6 But go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of JEHOVAH in the hearing of the people, in the house of JEHOVAH, upon a fast day; and also in the hearing of all Judah that come out of their cities
7 shalt thou read them. Peradventure they may prostrate themselves in supplication before JEHOVAH, and they may return every one from his evil way: for great is the anger and the indignation which JEHOVAH hath denounced against this
8 people. And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him; reading in the book the words of
9 JEHOVAH in the house of JEHOVAH. For it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, in the ninth month, that all the people in Jerusalem, and all the people that came out of the cities of Judah, proclaimed
10 a fast before JEHOVAH in Jerusalem. Then read Baruch in the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of JEHOVAH, in the chamber of Ge-

- thou written thereon, saying, The king of Babylon shall surely come, and shall destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from it man and
30 beast? Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah, He shall not have one to sit upon the throne of David; and his dead body shall be cast forth to the heat by day, and
31 to the frost by night. And I will visit upon him, and upon his seed, and upon his servants, their iniquity; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil which I have denounced against them, but they hearkened not.
- 32 Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the son of Neriah, the scribe; and he wrote thereon from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book, which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire; and there was a further addition made unto them of many words of the same sort.

CHAP. XLV.

- 1 THE WORD WHICH JEREMIAH THE PROPHET SPAKE UNTO BARUCH THE SON OF NERIAH, AFTER HE HAD WRITTEN THESE WORDS IN A BOOK FROM THE MOUTH OF JEREMIAH, IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF JEHOIAKIM THE SON OF JOSIAH KING OF JUDAH, SAYING,
- 2 Thus hath JEHOVAH the God of Israel spoken
3 concerning thee, O Baruch; Thou hast said, Woe now unto me! for JEHOVAH hath added grief to my sorrow; I am wearied with my sighing, and
4 have found no rest. Thus shalt thou say unto him, Thus hath JEHOVAH said; Behold, what I have builded, I am about to pull down; and

what I have planted I am about to pluck up, even
5 the whole land itself: and seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek [them] not; for, behold, I am about to bring evil upon all flesh, saith JEHOVAH; but I will give thee thy life as spoil in all places whither thou goest.

CHAP. XXIV.

1 JEHOVAH shewed me, and behold two baskets of figs offered according to law before the temple of JEHOVAH, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jecooniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and the princes of Judah, and the artificers, and the armourers, from Jerusalem, and had conducted
2 them to Babylon: one basket of figs exceedingly good, like the figs of the early sort; and the other basket of figs exceedingly bad, which could
3 not be eaten for badness. And JEHOVAH said unto me, What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs: the good figs exceedingly good, and the bad exceedingly bad, which cannot be eaten for
4 badness. Then came the word of JEHOVAH unto me, saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I distinguish the captives of Judah, whom I have sent out of
5 this place into the land of Chaldea, in a favourable manner. And I will set my eyes upon them
6 favourably, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up, and not pull down;
7 and I will plant them, and not pluck up. And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am JEHOVAH; and they shall be to me a people, and I will be to them a God; when they shall return

8 unto me with their whole heart. But as the bad
figs, which cannot be eaten for badness, surely
thus saith JEHOVAH, So will I make Zedekiah
king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue
9 of Jerusalem, those that are left in this land, and
those that settle in the land of Egypt: and I
will deliver them up to vexation afflictively in all
kingdoms of the earth; to be a reproach, and a
proverb, and a taunt, and a curse, in all places
10 whither I shall drive them. And I will send a-
mong them the sword, and the famine, and the
pestilence, until they be consumed from off the
land, which I gave unto them and to their fa-
thers.

CHAP. XXIX.

1 NOW these are the words of the letter, which
Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem, unto
the residue of the elders of the captivity, and to the
priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people,
whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive
2 from Jerusalem to Babylon, after the departure
of Jeconiah the king, and the queen, and the eu-
nuchs, and the princes of Judah and Jerusalem,
and the artificers, and the armourers, from Jerusa-
3 lem, by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and
Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, (whom Zedekiah
king of Judah sent to Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon unto Babylon) saying,
4 THUS saith JEHOVAH of hosts the God of Is-
rael unto all the captivity, whom I have caused
to be carried away captive from Jerusalem unto
5 Babylon; Build ye houses, and inhabit; and plant
6 gardens, and eat the fruit of them. Take ye
wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take

- wives for your sons, and give your daughters unto husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and increase ye there, and be not diminished. And seek ye the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captive, for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace. For thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets that are in the midst of you, nor your diviners, impose upon you, neither hearken ye to your dealers in dreams, whom ye cause to dream. For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name; I have not sent them, saith JEHOVAH. For thus saith JEHOVAH, Surely when seventy years have been completed at Babylon, I will visit you, and I will perform towards you my good promise, in bringing you again to this place. For I know the intentions which I have in my mind respecting you, saith JEHOVAH, intentions of peace, and not of hurtful tendency; to make your latter end even an object of hope. And ye shall call upon me, and shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and shall find, when ye shall have sought me with your whole heart. And I will be found of you, saith JEHOVAH; and I will reverse your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith JEHOVAH; and I will bring you again to the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.
- 16 But thus hath JEHOVAH spoken concerning the king that sitteth upon the throne of David, and concerning all the people that dwell in this city, your brethren that went not forth with you into

- 17 captivity : Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, Behold, I am about to send upon them the sword, and the famine, and the pestilence, and I will make them like the vilest figs, which cannot be eaten for bad-
- 18 ness. And I will persecute them with sword, and with famine, and with pestilence ; and I will give them up to vexation in all kingdoms of the earth, for a curse, and for an astonishment, and for a hissing, and for a reproach, among all na-
- 19 tions, whither I have driven them : because they have not hearkened unto my words, saith JEHOVAH, when I sent unto them my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending, even as ye
- 20 have not hearkened, saith JEHOVAH. Hearken ye therefore unto the word of JEHOVAH all ye of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon.
- 15 WHEREAS ye have said, JEHOVAH hath raised
- 21 up for us prophets in Babylon : Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts the God of Israel, concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and concerning Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who prophesy unto you in my name falsely ; Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon ; and he shall slay them before your eyes : and from them shall be taken a curse among all the captives of Judah that are at Babylon, saying, JEHOVAH make thee like Zedekiah, and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire :
- 22 because they have practised villany in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours wives, and have spoken a word in my name falsely, which I commanded them not ; for I know and am a witness, saith JEHOVAH.
- 23

24 ALSO to Shemaiah the Nehelamite shalt thou
25 speak, saying, Thus hath JEHOVAH of hosts the
God of Israel spoken, saying, Because thou hast
sent letters in thy name unto all the people that
are at Jerusalem, and to Zephaniah the son of
Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, say-
26 ing, JEHOVAH hath made thee priest in the room
of Jehoiada the priest, that there should be offi-
cers in the house of JEHOVAH, in the case of any
one that is mad, and giveth himself out for a pro-
phet, and that thou shouldst commit him to the
house of correction, and to close confinement.
27 Now therefore why hast thou not rebuked Jere-
miah the Anathothite, who giveth himself out
28 for a prophet among you? Forasmuch as he hath
sent to us at Babylon, saying, The term is long;
build ye houses, and inhabit; and plant gardens,
29 and eat of the fruit of them. (And Zephaniah
the priest read this letter in the ears of Jeremiah
30 the prophet.) Therefore hath the word of JEHO-
VAH come unto Jeremiah, saying, Send unto all
31 the captivity, saying, Thus hath JEHOVAH spo-
ken concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite; Be-
cause that Shemaiah hath prophesied unto you,
when I sent him not, but he hath caused you to
32 trust in a falsehood: Therefore thus saith JEHO-
VAH, Behold I will punish Shemaiah the Nehela-
mite, and his seed; there shall not be one of his
line dwelling among this people; neither shall
he behold the good which I will do unto my peo-
ple, saith JEHOVAH; because he hath spoken pre-
varication concerning JEHOVAH.

CHAP. XXX.

1 THE WORD WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH FROM JEHO-
VAH, SAYING,

2 THUS hath JEHOVAH the God of Israel spoken,
saying, Write thee all the words that I have spo-
3 ken unto thee in a book. For behold the days
are coming, saith JEHOVAH, when I will reverse
the captivity of my people, Israel and Judah,
saith JEHOVAH; and I will bring them back to
the land which I gave to their fathers, and they
shall possess it.

4 AND these are the words which JEHOVAH hath
spoken concerning Israel and concerning Judah:

5 SURELY thus saith JEHOVAH,
A voice of trembling have we heard,
There is terror, and no peace.

6 Ask ye now, and see;
If a male can bring forth?
Wherefore have I seen every man,
His hands upon his loins, as a woman in travail,
And all faces are changed into paleness?

7 Alas! for that day is great,
So that there is none like it;
And a time of distress, which shall be to Jacob;
But he shall be saved from it.

8 And it shall be in that day,
Saith JEHOVAH of hosts,
I will break his yoke from off his neck,
And his bands will I burst asunder;
And strangers shall no more exact service of him:
9 But they shall serve JEHOVAH their God,
And David their king, whom I will raise up for
them.

- 10 Therefore, fear thou not,
O my servant Jacob, saith JEHOVAH;
And be not thou dismayed, O Israel;
For, behold, I will bring thee safe from afar,
And thy seed from the land of their captivity;
And Jacob shall again be at rest,
He shall also be secure, and there shall be none
to make him afraid.
- 11 For I will be with thee,
Saith JEHOVAH, to save thee;
When I shall make a full end of all the nations,
Whither I have dispersed thee,
Yet will I not make a full end of thee:
But I will correct thee with moderation,
And will not make thee altogether desolate.
- 12 Surely thus saith JEHOVAH;
Thy bruise is desperate,
Thy wound is grievous:
- 13 There is none that lendeth a helping hand for thy
cure;
No healing medicines are applied to thee.
- 14 All thy friends have forgotten thee,
They seek not after thee;
Surely with the stroke of an enemy have I smitten thee,
A severe chastisement;
Because thy iniquity is great,
Thy offences are numerous.
- 15 Why criest thou because of thy bruise?
Thy suffering is without remedy;
Because thy iniquity is great,
Thy offences are numerous,
Have I done these things unto thee.
- 16 Afterwards shall all they that devour thee be devoured,

And all thine enemies, they shall go into captivity ;
And they that spoil thee shall become a spoil,
And all them that plunder thee will I give up to
plunder.

17 For I will restore soundness to thee,
And of thy wounds will I heal thee, saith JEHO-
VAH ;

Although they have called thee an Outcast,
Sion, she whom no one careth for.

18 Thus saith JEHOVAH ;
Behold, I will reverse the captivity of Jacob's
tents,

And upon his dwelling places will I have com-
passion ;

And the city shall be builded upon its heap,
And the palace shall be re-established upon its
(former) plan.

19 And out of them shall go forth thanksgiving,
And the voice of them that are joyous ;
And I will multiply them, and they shall not be
diminished,

And I will raise them to honour, and they shall
not be brought low.

20 And his children shall be as aforetime,
And his congregation shall be established before
me ;

And I will call to account those that oppress him.

21 And his prince shall be of his own race,
And his governor shall go forth out of the midst
of him ;

And I will draw him, that he may come near un-
to me ;

For who is he that hath set his heart
To draw near unto me? saith JEHOVAH.

- 22 And ye shall be unto me a people,
And I will be unto you a God.
- 23 Behold the whirlwind of JEHOVAH, it goeth
forth hot,
Even a settling whirlwind, upon the head of the
wicked shall it settle.
- 24 The fierce anger of JEHOVAH shall not turn back,
Until he hath wrought, and until he hath accom-
plished the purpose of his heart;
In the latter days ye shall discern it.

CHAP. XXXI.

- 1 At that time, saith JEHOVAH,
Will I be a God unto all the families of Israel,
And they shall be unto me a people.
- 2 Thus said JEHOVAH,
A people, relics of the sword, hath found favour
in the wilderness,
Israel a proceeding towards his restoration.
- 3 (From afar off JEHOVAH appeared unto me)
Also with a love of long standing have I loved
thee,
Therefore have I lengthened out mercy to thee.
- 4 Yet again will I build thee, and thou shalt be
built, O virgin of Israel;
Yet again shalt thou deck thyself with thy tabrets,
And shalt go forth in the dance of those that
make merry.
- 5 Yet again shalt thou plant vineyards on the moun-
tains of Samaria;
Plant, O ye planters, and eat ye the fruit.
- 6 For the day is come, have watchmen proclaimed,
on mount Ephraim;
Arise ye, and let us go up to Sion, unto JEHOVAH
our God.

- 7 For thus hath JEHOVAH said,
Shout forth joy unto Jacob,
And congratulate with the chief of the nations;
Publish ye, praise ye, and say,
JEHOVAH hath saved thy people,
The remnant of Israel.
- 8 Behold I will bring them from the north country,
And will gather them from the extremities of the
earth:
Among them the blind and the lame,
The woman with child, and she that travaileth
together,
A great company shall they return.
- 9 Behold with weeping shall they come,
And amidst supplications will I lead them along;
I will conduct them to streams of water,
In a smooth way, wherein they shall not stumble;
For I have been a father unto Israel,
And Ephraim, he was my first-born.
- 10 Hear the word of JEHOVAH, O ye nations,
And report in the distant coasts, and say,
He that scattered Israel will gather him,
And will guard him, as a shepherd doth his flock.
- 11 For JEHOVAH hath redeemed Jacob,
And will deliver him out of the hand of him that
is stronger than he.
- 12 And they shall come, and shall shout in the height
of Sion,
And shall flock together for to share in the good
things of JEHOVAH,
For corn, and for new wine, and for oil,
And for the young of the flock, and of the herd;
And their soul shall be as a well-watered garden,
And they shall not pine for hunger any more.

- 13 Then shall the virgin in the dance rejoice,
And the young men and old men together;
For I will change their mourning into joy;
I will also comfort them, and cheer them after
their sorrow.
- 14 And I will satiate the desire of the priests with
delicacies,
And my people shall be satisfied with my good
things, saith JEHOVAH.
- 15 Thus saith JEHOVAH;
A voice hath been heard in Ramah,
A lamentation of most bitter weeping;
Rachel, weeping for her children,
Refuseth to be comforted, because they are not.
- 16 Thus saith JEHOVAH,
Refrain thy voice from weeping,
And thine eyes from tears;
For thy works shall have a reward, saith JEHOVAH,
And they shall return out of the land of the
enemy:
- 17 There is also hope in thy latter end, saith JEHO-
VAH,
And thy children shall return unto their own
border.
- 18 I have surely heard Ephraim lamenting himself:
Thou hast corrected me, and I was corrected,
like a steer not broken:
Turn thou me, and I shall be turned;
For thou art JEHOVAH my God.
- 19 Surely after that I was turned, I repented,
And after that I was admonished, I smote upon
my thigh;
I was ashamed, and even covered with confusion,
Because I did bear the reproach of my youth.

- 20 Is Ephraim a son dear unto me?
Is he a child fondly beloved?
That so soon as ever my word is in him,
I should indeed call him again to my remembrance?
- Therefore have my bowels been moved for him,
I will surely have mercy upon him, saith JEHOVAH.
- 21 Set thee up waymarks,
Fix up for thyself tall poles,
Set thine heart toward the highway:
By the way thou wentest return, O virgin of Israel,
Return to these thy cities.
- 22 How long wilt thou turn thyself away, O refractory virgin?
For JEHOVAH is about to create a new thing in the earth,
A woman shall put to the rout a strong man.
- 23 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel;
Again shall they speak this word in the land of Judah,
And in the cities thereof, when I reverse their captivity,
JEHOVAH shall bless thee, O habitation of righteousness,
O mountain of the most holy One.
- 24 And Judah shall dwell in it, and all his cities,
Husbandmen altogether, and they shall go about with flocks.
- 25 For I have refreshed the thirsty soul,
And every soul that pined for hunger have I filled.
- 26 Hereupon I awoke, and saw;
And my sleep was pleasing unto me.

- 27 BEHOLD the days come, saith JEHOVAH,
That I will sow the house of Israel, and the house
of Judah,
With the seed of man, and with the seed of beast.
- 28 And it shall be that, as I have watched over them,
To pluck up, and to pull down, and to overthrow,
And to destroy, and to afflict:
So will I watch over them,
To build, and to plant, saith JEHOVAH.
- 29 In those days they shall no more say,
The fathers have eaten a sour grape,
And the children's teeth shall be set on edge.
- 30 But every man shall die for his own iniquity;
Every man that hath eaten the sour grape,
His teeth shall be set on edge.
- 31 Behold the days come, saith JEHOVAH,
That I will make with the house of Israel,
And with the house of Judah, a new covenant:
32 Not according to the covenant which I made
with their fathers,
In the day that I took them by the hand,
To bring them out of the land of Egypt;
Which covenant of mine they violated,
Although I was a husband unto them, saith JEHO-
VAH.
- 33 But this is the covenant which I will make with
the house of Israel;
After those days, saith JEHOVAH, will I put my
law into their inward parts,
And upon their heart will I write it;
And I will be unto them a God,
And they shall be unto me a people.
- 34 And they shall not teach any more,
Every man his neighbour, and every man his bro-
ther,

Saying, Know ye JEHOVAH;
For they shall all know me,
From the least of them even unto the greatest of
them, saith JEHOVAH;
For I will pardon their iniquity,
And their sin will I remember no more.

35 Thus saith JEHOVAH,
Who hath appointed the sun for a light by day,
The stated order of the moon and stars for a light
by night;
Who agitateth the sea, so that the waves thereof
roar;

JEHOVAH of hosts is his name:
36 If these ordinances shall depart from before me;
Then shall the seed of Israel also cease
From being a nation before me continually.

37 Thus saith JEHOVAH;
If the heavens above can be measured,
Or the foundations of the earth beneath be tra-
ced out;

Then will I also reject the whole seed of Israel,
Because of all that they have done, saith JEHOVAH.

38 Behold, the days come, saith JEHOVAH,
That the city shall be built under the direction
of JEHOVAH,

From the tower of Hananeel unto the corner gate:
39 And a line of the measure shall proceed on straight
forward

Over the hill Gareb, and shall encompass Goatha,
40 And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of
the ashes,

And all the fields unto the brook Kidron,
As far as to the angle of the horse gate eastward:
Sacred to JEHOVAH it shall not be plucked up,
Neither shall it be thrown down any more for ever.

CHAP. XXVII.

1 IN THE BEGINNING OF THE REIGN OF ZEDEKIAH THE
SON OF JOSIAH KING OF JUDAH, CAME THIS COMMAND UN-
TO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOVAH, TO SAY,

2 THUS said JEHOVAH to me, Make thee bands
and yokes, and thou shalt put them upon thy
3 neck; and thou shalt send them to the king of
Edom, and to the king of Moab, and to the king
of the children of Ammon, and to the king of
Tyre, and to the king of Sidon, by the hand of
the ambassadors, that are come to Jerusalem to
4 Zedekiah king of Judah. And thou shalt charge
them with a message unto their masters, saying,
5 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel,
Thus shall ye say unto your masters; I have made
the earth, and the man and the beast which are up-
on the face of the earth, by my great power, and
by my outstretched arm; and I will give it unto
6 whomsoever it seemeth meet unto me. And now
I have given all these lands into the hand of Ne-
buchadnezzar king of Babylon, my servant, and
the beasts of the field also have I given unto him
7 to serve him. And all nations shall serve him,
and his son, and his son's son, until the time of
his land, even his, be come, when many nations
8 and great kings shall exact service of him. And
it shall be, that whatsoever nation and kingdom
will not serve him, Nebuchadnezzar king of Ba-
bylon, and will not submit its neck to the yoke
of the king of Babylon, with sword and with fa-
mine and with pestilence will I visit upon that
nation, saith JEHOVAH, until I have consumed

9 them by his hand. Therefore hearken ye not to your prophets, and to your diviners, and to your dealers in dreams, and to your astrologers, and to your sorcerers, that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy falsehood unto you, so as to remove you far from your own land, and that I should drive you out, and that ye should perish. But the nation which shall bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and shall serve him, I will even leave them undisturbed in their own land, saith JEHOVAH, and they shall cultivate it, and shall dwell therein.

12 And I spake to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live. Why will ye die, thou and thy people, by sword, and by famine, and by pestilence, according as JEHOVAH hath spoken concerning the nation which will not serve the king of Babylon. And hearken ye not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon; for they prophesy falsehood unto you. For I have not sent them, saith JEHOVAH, but they prophesy in my name falsely, that I might drive you out, and that ye might perish, ye, and the prophets that prophesy unto you.

16 Also to the priests, and to all the people, spake I, saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH, Hearken not unto the words of your prophets that prophesy unto you, saying, Behold, the vessels of the house of JEHOVAH shall be brought back again from Babylon now shortly: for they prophesy unto you

17 falsehood. Hearken ye not unto them ; serve the
king of Babylon, and live : wherefore should this
18 city become a desolation ? But if they be prophets,
and if the word of JEHOVAH be with them, let
them now intercede with JEHOVAH of hosts, that
the vessels which are left in the house of JEHO-
VAH, and in the house of the king of Judah, and
19 in Jerusalem, may not go to Babylon. For thus
saith JEHOVAH of hosts concerning the pillars,
and concerning the sea, and concerning the bases,
and concerning the residue of the vessels that are
20 left in this city, which Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon took not, when he carried away captive
Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah
from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of
21 Judah and Jerusalem : Surely thus saith JEHOVAH
of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the ves-
sels that are left in the house of JEHOVAH, and
in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jeru-
22 salem ; They shall be carried to Babylon, and there
shall they be until the day that I shall visit them,
saith JEHOVAH ; when I will bring them up,
and restore them to this place.

CHAP. XXVIII.

1 AND it came to pass in the same year, in the
beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Ju-
dah, in the fourth year, in the fifth month, that
Hananiah, the son of Azur, the prophet, who was
of Gibeon, spake unto me in the house of JEHO-
VAH, in the presence of the priests and of all the
2 people, saying, Thus hath JEHOVAH of hosts, the
God of Israel, spoken, saying, I have broken the
3 yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two full

years will I bring again to this place all the vessels of the house of JEHOVAH, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took from this place,
4 and carried them to Babylon. And Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and all the captives of Judah, that went to Babylon, will I bring again to this place, saith JEHOVAH; for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.

5 Then Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests, and in the presence of all the people that stood
6 in the house of JEHOVAH. And Jeremiah the prophet said, Amen; so let JEHOVAH do; let JEHOVAH confirm thy words which thou hast prophesied, in bringing back the vessels of the house of JEHOVAH, and all the captives, from Babylon
7 unto this place. Nevertheless hear now this word which I speak in thy hearing, and in the hearing
8 of all the people. The prophets, who have been before me and before thee from ancient time, have also prophesied concerning many nations, and concerning great kingdoms, of war, and of calamity, and of pestilence. Whatsoever prophet
9 shall prophesy of peace, by the word of the prophet coming to pass shall the prophet be discerned, whom JEHOVAH hath sent indeed.

10 Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke from off the prophet Jeremiah's neck, and brake
11 it. And Hananiah spake in the presence of all the people, saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH, After this manner will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from off the neck of all the nations within the space of two full years. And the prophet Jeremiah went his way.

- 12 Then came the word of JEHOVAH to Jeremiah, after that Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from off the neck of Jeremiah the prophet
- 13 saying, Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH, Thou hast broken yokes of wood, but thou shalt make instead of them yokes of iron.
- 14 For thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts the God of Israel; A yoke of iron have I put upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him; and also the beasts of the field have I given unto him.
- 15 The prophet Jeremiah also said unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; JEHOVAH hath not sent thee; but thou hast made this people to trust in a lie. Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH, Behold I am about to cast thee from off the face of the ground; this year thou shalt die, because thou hast spoken prevarication concerning
- 17 JEHOVAH. And Hananiah the prophet died in the same year in the seventh month.

CHAP. XXI.

- 1 THE WORD WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOVAH, WHEN KING ZEDEKIAH SENT UNTO HIM PASHUR THE SON OF MELCHIAH, AND ZEPHANIAH THE SON OF MAASIAH THE PRIEST, SAYING,
- 2 INTREAT, we pray thee, JEHOVAH for us, because Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon maketh war against us; if so be that JEHOVAH will deal with us according to all his wondrous works, and he may go up from us.
- 3 And Jeremiah said unto them, Thus shall ye
- 4 say to Zedekiah: Thus saith JEHOVAH the God

- of Israel, Behold, I will turn aside the weapons of war, which are in your hand, wherewith ye fight against the king of Babylon, and against the Chaldeans, that besiege you from without the wall, and I will assemble them into the midst of
5 this city. And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand, and with a strong arm, and with anger, and with fury, and with great
6 wrath. And I will smite the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast ; of a great pesti-
7 lence shall they die. And after this, saith JEHOVAH, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, even those that are left in this city, from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life ; and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword ; he shall have no pity on them, neither shall he spare, neither shall he shew mercy.
- 8 And unto this people shalt thou say, Thus saith JEHOVAH, Behold I set before you the way
9 of life, and the way of death. He that abideth in this city shall die by sword, and by famine, and by pestilence ; but he that goeth out, and surrendereth himself to the Chaldeans that lay siege round about you, he shall even live, and
10 his life shall be unto him as spoil. For I have set my face against this city in an evil, and not in a friendly manner, saith JEHOVAH ; into the hand of the king of Babylon shall it be delivered, and he shall burn it with fire.
- 11 And with regard to the house of the king of Ju-

- 12 dah, hear ye the word of JEHOVAH. O house of David, thus saith JEHOVAH, Judge ye, searching out right, and deliver him that is spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, lest my wrath go forth like fire, and it be kindled, and there be none to
13 quench, because of the evil of your doings. Behold, I am against thee, O thou inhabitant of the levelled hollow of a rock, saith JEHOVAH; ye who say, Who shall make a breach upon us? Or
14 who shall enter into our habitations? And I will punish you according to the fruit of your machinations, saith JEHOVAH; and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof, and it shall consume all around it.

CHAP. XXXIV.

- 1 THE WORD WHICH CAME UNTO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOVAH, WHEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR KING OF BABYLON, AND ALL HIS ARMY, AND ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH THAT WERE UNDER HIS DOMINION, AND ALL THE PEOPLES, MADE WAR AGAINST JERUSALEM, AND AGAINST ALL THE CITIES THEREOF, SAYING,
- 2 THUS saith JEHOVAH the God of Israel, Go and speak to Zedekiah, and thou shalt say unto him, Thus saith JEHOVAH, Behold I am about to deliver this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire. And thou
3 shalt not escape out of his hand, but shalt surely be taken, and into his hand shalt thou be delivered; and thine eyes shall behold the eyes of the king of Babylon, and he shall speak with thee mouth to mouth, and thou shalt go to Babylon.
- 4 Nevertheless hear the word of JEHOVAH, O Zedekiah king of Judah; Thus hath JEHOVAH spoken concerning thee, Thou shalt not die by the

5 sword. In peace shalt thou die, and according to the burnings of thine ancestors, the former kings that were before thee, so shall they burn for thee; and they shall lament for thee, [saying] Ah lord! for I have spoken the word, saith JEHOVAH. And Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Zedekiah king of Judah all these words in Jerusalem, when the forces of the king of Babylon were making war against Jerusalem, and against all the cities of Judah that remained, against Lachish, and against Azekah; for these remained of the cities of Judah, fortified cities.

8 THE WORD WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOVAH, AFTER THAT KING ZEDEKIAH HAD ENTERED INTO COVENANT WITH ALL THE PEOPLE THAT WERE IN JERUSALEM, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY UNTO THEM: THAT EVERY ONE SHOULD LET HIS BONDMAN, AND EVERY ONE HIS BONDWOMAN, THAT WAS A HEBREW MAN, OR HEBREW WOMAN, GO FREE, AND NOT EXACT SERVICE OF THEM, EVERY ONE OF A JEW HIS BROTHER.

10 And all the princes hearkened, and all the people who entered into covenant to let every one his bondman, and every one his bondwoman, go free, and not to exact service of them any more, they hearkened, I say, and let them go. But they returned afterwards, and took back the bondmen and the bondwomen, whom they had let go free: and compelled them to serve as bondmen and bondwomen. Then came the word of JEHOVAH to Jeremiah from JEHOVAH, saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH the God of Israel, I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondmen, saying, At the end of seven years ye shall let go every man

his brother, an Hebrew, who shall have been sold unto thee; when he shall have served thee six years, then thou shalt let him go free from thee. But your fathers hearkened not unto me,
15 nor inclined their ear. And when ye had turned at this time, and had done what was right in mine eyes, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his neighbour, and had entered into a covenant before me in the house which is called by my
16 name: then ye returned, and profaned my name, and took back every man his bondman and every one his bondwoman, whom ye had let go free to follow their own inclinations; and ye compelled them to be bondmen and bondwomen unto you.
17 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH, Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty every one to his brother, and every one to his neighbour; behold, I proclaim liberty in regard to you, saith JEHOVAH, unto the sword, and to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will give you up to vexation
18 in all kingdoms of the earth. And I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, who have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant which they made in presence of the calf, which they cut in twain, and passed between the parts
19 thereof; the princes of Judah, and the princes of Jerusalem, and the eunuchs, and the priests and all the people of the land, that passed between the parts of the calf; I will even
20 give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life; and their dead bodies shall be for meat unto the fowls of the heavens, and to the beasts of
21 the earth. And Zedekiah king of Judah, and

his princes, will I give into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life, even into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which are gone up from you. Behold, I will give the command, saith JEHOVAH, and will cause them to return to this city; and they shall fight against it, and take it, and burn it with fire; and the cities of Judah will I make a desolation without an inhabitant.

CHAP. XXXVII.

1 Now king Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah. But neither he, nor his servants, nor the people of the land, regarded the words of JEHOVAH, which he spake by the prophet Jeremiah. And Zedekiah the king sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, Pray now to JEHOVAH our God for us. For Jeremiah came in and went out among the people, and they had not cast him into prison. Also Pharaoh's army was come forth out of Egypt, and the Chaldeans who laid siege to Jerusalem, when they heard the report of them, marched off from before Jerusalem.

6 Then came the word of JEHOVAH unto Jeremiah the prophet, saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say to the king of Judah that sent you to me, to seek me; Behold, Pharaoh's army, which is come forth to your assistance, shall return to their own land, to Egypt. And the Chaldeans shall come again, and fight

against this city, and they shall take it, and burn
9 it with fire. Thus saith JEHOVAH, Deceive not
yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely go
10 away from us; for they shall not go. But, al-
though ye had smitten the whole army of the
Chaldeans, that fight against you, and there re-
mained of them wounded men, every one in his
tent, they should rise, and burn this city with
fire.

11 AND it came to pass, when the army of the
Chaldeans were marched off from before Jerusa-
12 lem because of Pharaoh's army, that Jeremiah
went forth out of Jerusalem, to go into the land
of Benjamin, to receive a portion thereof among
13 the people. And as he was in the gate of Ben-
jamin, a captain of the ward was there, whose
name was Irijah, the son of Shelemiah, the son
of Hananiah; and he laid hold on Jeremiah, say-
14 ing, Thou art going over to the Chaldeans. And
Jeremiah said, It is false, I am not going over to
the Chaldeans. But he hearkened not to him.
And Irijah laid hold on Jeremiah, and brought
15 him unto the princes. And the princes were in-
censed against Jeremiah; and smote him, and
committed him to prison in the house of Jona-
than the scribe; for they made that a prison.

16 When Jeremiah was entered into the dungeon
and into the cells, and had abode there many days;
17 then Zedekiah the king sent, and took him; and
the king asked him in his house privately, and
said, Is there any word from JEHOVAH? And Je-
remiah said, There is: for he hath said, Into the
hand of the king of Babylon shalt thou be deli-
18 vered. And Jeremiah said unto king Zedekiah,

What offence have I committed against thee, or against thy servants, or against this people, that
19 ye have cast me into prison? And where are your prophets, that prophesied unto you, saying, The king of Babylon shall not come against you, nor
20 against this land? But now hear, I pray thee, O my lord the king; let my supplication, I pray thee, fall down before thee, and cause me not to return to the house of Jonathan the scribe, nor
21 let me die there. And Zedekiah the king commanded, and they committed Jeremiah into the court of the prison, and allowed him a loaf of bread every day out of the baker's street, until all the bread in the city were spent. And Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.

CHAP. XXXII.

1 THE WORD WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOVAH IN THE TENTH YEAR OF ZEDEKIAH KING OF JUDAH: THE SAME WAS THE EIGHTEENTH YEAR OF NEBUCHAD-NEZZAR:

2 And at that time the army of the Chaldeans laid close siege to Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the court of the prison, which belonged to the house of the king of Judah,
3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had put him in confinement, saying, Wherefore hast thou prophesied, saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH, Behold, I am about to give this city into the hand of the king of
4 Babylon, and he shall take it. And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall speak with him mouth to mouth; and his

5 eyes shall behold his eyes. And he shall transport Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith JEHOVAH. When ye shall fight against the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.

6 AND Jeremiah said, The word of JEHOVAH
7 came unto me, saying, Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle will come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field which is in Anathoth, for thine is by law the redemption for to purchase.

8 And Hanameel my uncle's son came unto me according to the word of JEHOVAH in the court of the prison, and said unto me, Buy, I pray thee, my field which is in Anathoth, which is in the land of Benjamin; for thine is by law the inheritance, and thine the redemption: buy [it] for thyself. Then I knew that this was the

9 word of JEHOVAH. I bought therefore the field which was in Anathoth of Hanameel my uncle's son, and I paid him the money, seventeen shekels

10 of silver. And I had a deed drawn up and sealed, and I caused witnesses to witness, and I weighed

11 ed the money in scales. And I took the purchase deed, that which was sealed [containing] the assignment and the limitations; and that which

12 was open. And I delivered the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maasciah, in the presence of Hanameel my uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses who were written in the purchase deed, and in the presence of all the Jews, who sate in the court of the prison.

13 And I charged Baruch in their presence, saying,

14 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel, Take these writings, this purchase deed, both the sealed, and this open deed, and deposit them

in an earthen vessel, that they may endure many
15 days. For thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts the God
of Israel, Yet again shall houses and fields and
vineyards be recovered in this land.

16 THEN prayed I unto JEHOVAH, after I had de-
livered the purchase deed to Baruch the son of
17 Neriah, saying, Ah Lord JEHOVAH! Behold, thou
hast made the heavens and the earth by thy great
power, and by thy stretched out arm; there can
18 be nothing too hard for thee; who shewest mer-
cy unto thousands, and recompensest the iniqui-
ty of the fathers into the bosom of their children
that come after them; the greatest, the mightiest
19 God, whose name is JEHOVAH of hosts: great in
counsel, and manifold in operation, whose eyes
are open upon all the ways of the children of
men, to give to every one according to his ways,
20 and according to the fruit of his doings; who
hast displayed signs and wonders in the land of
Egypt, even unto this day, and in Israel, and a-
mong men; and hast made thyself a name as at
21 this day: and hast brought forth thy people Is-
rael out of the land of Egypt, with signs, and
with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with
a stretched out arm, and with great terribleness;
22 and hast given unto them this land, which thou
swarest unto their fathers to give them, a land
23 flowing with milk and honey; and they have en-
tered in and possessed it; but they have not obey-
ed thy voice, nor walked according to thy law;
all that thou commandedst them to do, they have
not done; therefore hast thou caused all this evil to
24 befall them. Behold, the mounts are advanced unto
the city to take it, and the city is given into the

hand of the Chaldeans, that war against it, by means of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence; and what thou hast spoken is come
25 to pass, and, behold, thou seest. Yet hast thou said unto me, O Lord JEHOVAH, Buy thee the field for money, and cause witnesses to attest; whereas the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.

26 THEN came the word of JEHOVAH unto Jeremiah, saying, Behold, I JEHOVAH am the God of
27 all flesh; can any thing be too hard for me?

28 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH, Behold, I am about to give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of
29 Babylon, and he shall take it. And the Chaldeans, that war against this city, shall enter, and shall set this city on fire, and shall burn it, and the houses, upon the roofs of which they have burned incense to Baal, and have poured out libations unto strange gods, so as to provoke me to anger.

30 For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have been but doing that which is evil in my sight from their youth: surely the children of Israel have been but provoking me to anger with the work of their own hands, saith JEHO-

31 VAH. For a yoke of mine anger, and a yoke of mine indignation, hath this city been to me, from the day that they built it, even unto this day, to remove it from before me, because of all the
32 wickedness of the children of Israel, and of the children of Judah, which they have committed to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem.

33 For they have turned unto me the back, and not the face, and when I taught them, rising early and teaching, they none of them hearkened so as
34 to receive instruction. And they have set up their abominations in the house which is called by my name to defile it. And they have erected the
35 high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through unto Molech; which I commanded them not, nor was it acceptable unto me; practising this abomination for to bring guilt upon Judah.

36 But now after this, thus saith JEHOVAH the God of Israel concerning this city, of which ye say, It is delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, and by famine, and by pestilence: Behold, I will gather them out of all the countries whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in mine indignation, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and
37 I will cause them to dwell securely. And they shall be unto me a people, and I will be unto
38 them a God. And I will give them one heart and one way, to fear me continually, for the good of them, and of their children that
39 come after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, which I will not withdraw from their posterity, to be a benefactor unto them: and the fear of me will I put into their heart, that they shall not depart from me.
40 And I will rejoice over them in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly,
41 with all my heart, and with all my soul. For thus saith JEHOVAH, As I have brought upon

this people all this great evil, so will I bring upon them all the good which I spake concerning
43 them. And the fields shall be bought in this land, of which ye say, It is desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the
44 Chaldeans. Fields shall men buy with money, drawing up writings also, and sealing, and causing witnesses to attest, in the land of Benjamin, and in the environs of Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the hill country, and in the cities of the plain, and in the cities of the south; for I will reverse their captivity, saith JEHOVAH.

CHAP. XXXIII.

- 1 THE WORD OF JEHOVAH CAME ALSO TO JEREMIAN A SECOND TIME, WHILST HE WAS STILL CONFINED IN THE COURT OF THE PRISON, SAYING,
- 2 THUS saith JEHOVAH, the doer of it, JEHOVAH the framer of it, who also disposeth it, JEHOVAH of hosts is his name.
- 3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee,
And I will shew thee great things,
And hidden things, which thou knewest not.
- 4 For thus saith JEHOVAH, the God of Israel,
Concerning the houses of this city,
And concerning the houses of the kings of Judah,
Which are thrown down by the mounts and the sword,
- 5 That are come to make war on the part of the Chaldeans,
And to fill them with the dead bodies of the men,
Whom I have smitten in mine anger, and in my wrath,

And upon account of all the wickedness of whom
I have hid my face from this city :

6 Behold, I will make it perfectly sound and whole,
and will heal them ;

I will also grant their prayer for peace and truth :

7 And I will bring back the captivity of Judah,
And the captivity of Israel ;

And I will build them as at the first.

8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity,
Which they have been guilty of towards me ;

And I will forgive all their iniquities,
Which they have been guilty of towards me,
And which they have rebelliously committed
against me.

9 And it shall become through me a name of joy,
A praise, and a glory, among all nations of the earth,
Which shall hear of all the good that I do among
them ;

And they shall fear and tremble because of all
the good,

And because of all the prosperity that I procure
unto them.

10 Thus saith JEHOVAH,
Yet again shall be heard in this place,
Of which ye say,

It is desolate without man and without beast,
In the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jeru-
salem,

That are desolate without man,
Even without an inhabitant, and without beast,

11 The voice of joy, and the voice of mirth,
The voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of
the bride,

The voice of them that say, Praise ye JEHOVAH
of hosts,

For JEHOVAH is gracious,
 For his mercy endureth for ever;
 Of them that bring praise to the house of JEHO-
 VAH;

For I will restore the captivity of the land,
 As at the first, saith JEHOVAH.

- 12 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts,
 Yet again shall there be in this place,
 That is desolate without man and beast,
 And in all the cities thereof,
 An habitation of shepherds folding sheep.
- 13 In the cities of the hill country, and in the cities
 of the plain,
 And in the cities of the south, and in the land
 of Benjamin,
 And in the environs of Jerusalem, and in the ci-
 ties of Judah,
 Shall the flocks pass yet again
 According to the direction of him that number-
 eth [them,] saith JEHOVAH.

- 14 BEHOLD, the days come, saith JEHOVAH,
 That I will perform that good thing,
 Which I have spoken concerning the house of
 Israel,
 And concerning the house of Judah in those days.
- 15 For at that time I will cause to grow up
 Of the line of David a branch of righteousness,
 And he shall execute judgment and justice in the
 land.

- 16 In those days Judah shall be saved,
 And Jerusalem shall dwell securely:
 And this is he, whom JEHOVAH shall call OUR
 RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- 17 Surely thus saith JEHOVAH,

There shall not be a failure in the line of David
of one

Sitting upon the throne of the house of Israel :

18 Neither shall there be a failure in the line of the
priests the Levites of one

Offering before me burnt offerings, and burning
meat offerings,

And performing sacrifice continually.

19 THE word of JEHOVAH came also unto Jere-
miah, saying,

20 Thus saith JEHOVAH,

If ye can make void my covenant of the day,

And my covenant of the night,

So that they be not daily and nightly in their
season ;

21 Then shall my covenant be made void with Da-
vid my servant,

That he shall not have a son reigning upon his
throne ;

And with the Levites the priests, that they shall
not minister unto me.

22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered,

Nor the sand of the sea measured ;

So will I multiply the seed of David my servant,

And the Levites that minister unto me.

23 THE word of JEHOVAH came also unto Jeremi-
ah, saying,

24 Hast thou not observed what this people have
spoken, saying,

The two families which JEHOVAH hath chosen,
he hath even rejected them ?

And they have treated my people with scorn,

So as not to look upon them any more as a nation.

25 Thus saith JEHOVAH,

If my covenant be not daily and nightly,
The ordinances of heaven and earth [if] I have
not appointed :

- 26 Then will I cast off the seed of Jacob, and David my servant,
So as not to take of his seed to be rulers
Unto the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob :
But I will reverse their captivity, and I will have
mercy upon them.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

- 1 AND Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashur the son of Malchijah, heard the words which Jeremiah used to speak
2 unto all the people, saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH, He that remaineth in this city shall die by sword, and by famine, and by pestilence : but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live ; and his life shall be unto him as spoil, and he shall live.
3 Thus saith JEHOVAH, This city shall surely be delivered into the hand of the army of the king
4 of Babylon, who shall take it. Then said the princes unto the king, Let this man, we pray thee, be put to death, forasmuch as he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking unto them according to these words : surely this
5 man is not one that seeketh the welfare of this people, but the hurt. And Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your power ; for the king can carry no point in competition with you.
6 Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchijah, the king's son, which was

in the court of the prison ; and they let Jeremiah down with cords : and in the dungeon there was no water, but mire ; and Jeremiah sunk in the mire.

7 And Ebed-melech the Cushite, an eunuch, who was then in the king's house, heard that they had cast Jeremiah into the dungeon ; and the king
8 was sitting in the gate of Benjamin. Then Ebed-melech went forth out of the king's house,
9 and spake to the king, saying, My lord the king, these men have done amiss all that they have done unto Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have caused to be thrown into the dungeon ; for he will die upon the spot for hunger, when there is
10 no longer any bread in the city. Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Cushite, saying, Take along with thee thirty men from hence, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon
11 before he die. And Ebed-melech took the men along with him, and went into the king's house under the store-room, and took from thence torn rags and worn out rags, and let them down by
12 cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah. And Ebed-melech the Cushite said to Jeremiah, Put now these torn and worn out rags under thine armholes
13 under the cords. And Jeremiah did so. And they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon ; and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.

14 And king Zedekiah sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet unto him into the third entrance, which is in the house of JEHOVAH. And the king said unto Jeremiah, I am about to ask thee a question ;
15 hide not any thing from me. And Jeremiah said

unto Zedekiah, When I have told thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? and when I shall have given thee counsel, thou wilt not hearken
16 unto me. Then king Zedekiah sware unto Jeremiah in secret, saying, As JEHOVAH liveth, who made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, nor will I deliver thee into the hand of these
17 men that seek thy life. And Jeremiah said unto Zedekiah, Thus saith JEHOVAH the God of hosts the God of Israel, If thou wilt indeed go forth unto the chieftains of the king of Babylon, then shall thy soul live, and this city shall not be
18 burned with fire; but thou shalt live, thou and thy family. But if thou wilt not go forth unto the chieftains of the king of Babylon, then shall this city be delivered into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire; and thou thyself
19 shalt not escape out of their hand. And king Zedekiah said unto Jeremiah, I am apprehensive of the Jews, who are gone over to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they
20 insult me. And Jeremiah said, They will not deliver [thee]. Hearken, I beseech thee, unto the voice of JEHOVAH, in what I speak unto thee, that it may go well with thee, and that thy soul
21 may live. But if thou refuse to go forth, this is the thing that JEHOVAH hath revealed unto
22 me: Even, behold, all the women that are left in the house of the king of Judah, shall be brought forth unto the chieftains of the king of Babylon, and these shall say, Thy familiar friends have set thee on, and prevailed over thee; they have set thy foot fast in the mire, and are turned
23 away back. And all thy wives and thy children shall they bring out to the Chaldeans; and thou

thyself shalt not escape out of their hand, but by the hand of the king of Babylon shalt thou be taken, and thou shalt be the means of burning this city with fire. Then said Zedekiah unto Jeremiah, Let no man know of these words, and thou shalt not die. But if the princes shall hear that I have conversed with thee, and shall come unto thee, and shall say unto thee, Tell us, we pray thee, what thou hast spoken unto the king, conceal not from us, and we will not put thee to death ; and what the king hath said unto thee : then shalt thou say unto them, I offered humbly my supplication before the king, that he would not cause me to return to the house of Jonathan to die there. Accordingly all the princes came to Jeremiah, and questioned him ; and he told them according to all those words, which the king had commanded. And they said no more, for the conversation was not heard. And Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison until the day that Jerusalem was taken, and he was [there] when Jerusalem was taken.

CHAP. XXXIX.

15 AND the word of JEHOVAH came unto Jeremiah, whilst he was confined in the court of the prison, saying, Go, and speak unto Ebed-melech the Cushite, saying, Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel, Behold, I am about to bring my words upon this city for harm, and not for good ; and they shall be before thy face in that day. But I will deliver thee in that day, saith JEHOVAH ; and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou art afraid. But

I will surely rescue thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword; but thy life shall be unto thee as spoil; because thou hast trusted in me, saith JEHOVAH.

CHAP. XXXIX.

- 1 IN the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army unto Jerusalem, and
- 2 they laid siege to it. In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth [day] of the month, the city was broken into.
- 3 And all the chieftains of the king of Babylon entered, and posted themselves in the gate of the centre; Nergal-sharetzar Samgar, Nebo-sarsechim Rab-saris, Nergal-sharetzar Rab-mag, and all the rest of the chieftains of the king of Babylon.
- 4 And it came to pass, when Zedekiah king of Judah, and all the men of war, saw them, they fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the king's garden, through the gate between the two walls: and they went forth toward the plain. And the army of the Chaldeans pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and they took him, and brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath: and he
- 6 proceeded judicially against him. And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah at Riblah before his eyes, and all the nobles of Judah
- 7 did the king of Babylon slay. And he put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters
- 8 of brass, to carry him to Babylon. And the house of the king, and the houses of the people, did

the Chaldeans burn with fire, and they brake
9 down the walls of Jerusalem. And the residue
of the people that remained in the city, and the
deserters who had come over to him, even the
residue of the people, those that remained, Ne-
buzaradan captain of the guards transported to
10 Babylon. But the meanest of the people, who
had no property, Nebuzaradan captain of the
guards left in the land of Judah, and gave them
at the same time vineyards and fields.

11 And Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had
given a charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzar-
12 adan captain of the guards, saying, Take him,
and have thine eyes upon him, and do him no
manner of harm; but according as he shall say
13 unto thee, so deal thou with him. So Nebuzara-
dan captain of the guards sent, and Nebu-shaz-
ban Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharetzar Rab-mag, and
all the commanders of the king of Babylon;
14 they sent, I say, and took Jeremiah out of the
court of the prison, and delivered him to Geda-
liah, the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan to
conduct him home; and he dwelt among the peo-
ple.

CHAP. XL.

1 THE WORD WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH FROM JEHOVAH,
AFTER THAT NEBUZARADAN CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS
HAD TAKEN HIM AND LET HIM GO FROM RAMAH; FOR HE
HAD BEEN BOUND WITH CHAINS AMONG ALL THE CAPTI-
VITY OF JERUSALEM AND JUDAH, WHO WERE CARRIED
AWAY CAPTIVE TO BABYLON.

2 AND the captain of the guards took Jeremiah,
and said unto him, JEHOVAH thy God hath de-
3 nounced this calamity against this place. And

- Jehovah hath come and done according as he spake; because ye had sinned against Jehovah, and not obeyed his voice; therefore hath this
4 thing befallen you. And now, behold, I have loosed thee this day from the chains which were upon thy hands. If it seem good unto thee to come with me to Babylon, come; and I will set mine eyes upon thee: but if it seem evil unto thee to come with me to Babylon, forbear: behold, the whole land is before thee; according as it seemeth good, and according as it seemeth right in thine eyes to go, go thither; and while
5 it continueth so, it shall not be set aside. Return therefore to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon hath made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people: or else, whithersoever it seemeth right in thine eyes to go, go. And the captain of the guards gave him provisions, and a gratuity, and dismissed him.
6 And Jeremiah went unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpeh, and dwelt with him among the people that were left in the land.
- 7 Now when all the captains of the forces, which were in the open country, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor over the land, and that he had committed to his charge men, and women, and children, even certain of the poor of the land, of those who were not carried away cap-
8 tive to Babylon: then they came to Gedaliah in Mizpeh, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan and Jonathan, the sons of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, and the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah the son of [Ho-

- 9 shaiah] the Maachathite, they and their men. And Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, swear unto them, and to their men, saying, Fear not to serve the Chaldeans; dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you. As for me, behold, I will reside at Mizpeh, to stand before the Chaldeans who shall come to us; but do ye gather in wine, and summer fruits, and oil, and put into your vessels; and dwell in your cities, which ye have occupied.
- 10
- 11 Also when all the Jews that were in Moab, and among the children of Ammon, and in Edom, and that were in all the countries, heard that the king of Babylon had given a remnant to Judah, and that he had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam,
- 12 the son of Shaphan, governor over them; then all the Jews returned from all the places whither they had been driven, and came to the land of Judah unto Gedaliah to Mizpeh; and they gathered in wine and summer fruits in great abundance.
- 13 And Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were in the open country, came unto Gedaliah to Mizpeh; and they
- 14 said unto him, Art thou well aware that Baalis the king of the children of Ammon hath sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, to take away thy life? But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam believed them not.
- 15 And Johanan the son of Kareah spake to Gedaliah in private at Mizpeh, saying, Let me go, I pray thee, and smite Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no one shall know. Wherefore should he take away thy life, and all Judah be dispersed, those that are gathered unto thee, and
- 16 the remnant of Judah perish? But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said unto Johanan the son of Ka-

reah, By no means do this thing; surely thou speakest falsely of Ishmael.

CHAP. XLI.

- 1 AND it came to pass in the seventh month,
that Ishmael, the son of Nethaniah, the son of
Elishama, of the seed royal, and great officers of
the king, even ten men, with him, came unto
Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpeh; and
2 they eat bread there together in Mizpeh. Then
Ishmael the son of Nethaniah arose, and the ten
men that were with him, and they smote Gedaliah
the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with
the sword, and slew him, whom the king of Ba-
3 bylon had made governor over the land. And all
the Jews that were with him, with Gedaliah in
Mizpeh, and the Chaldeans that were found there,
4 the men of war, did Ishmael smite. And it came
to pass the second day after he had murdered
5 Gedaliah, whilst no one knew [it], that there
came men from Schechem, and from Shiloh, and
from Samaria, fourscore persons, having their
beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having
cut themselves, with an oblation and incense in
their hand, to bring to the house of JEHOVAH.
6 And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah went out to
meet them from Mizpeh weeping all along as he
went; and it came to pass when he met them, that
he said unto them, Come ye to Gedaliah the son of
7 Ahikam. And it came to pass, when they were
come into the midst of the city, that Ishmael the
son of Nethaniah massacred them at the pit, he
8 and the men that were with him. But ten men
were found among them, that said unto Ishmael,

- Slay us not, for we have hidden stores in the fields, wheat, and barley, and oil, and honey. He forbore therefore, and slew them not among
9 their brethren. Now the pit, into which Ishmael cast all the dead bodies of the men whom he had smitten along with Gedaliah, the same which king Asa had made on account of Baasha king of Israel, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with
10 the slain. And Ishmael took captive all the residue of the people that were in Mizpeh, the king's daughters, and all the people that remained in Mizpeh, whom Nebuzaradan captain of the guards had committed to the charge of Gedaliah the son of Ahikam; even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah took them captive, and set forth to pass over to the children of Ammon.
- 11 But when Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were with him, heard of all the evil that Ishmael the son of
12 Nethaniah had done, they took all the men, and went up to fight with Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and came up with him at the great wa-
13 ters that are in Gibeon. And it came to pass when all the people that were with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were with him, they rejoiced.
14 And all the people that Ishmael had taken captive from Mizpeh faced about, and came back a-
15 gain to Johanan the son of Kareah. But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men, and went to the children of
16 Ammon. Then took Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were with him, all the remnant of the people, whom he had

recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, from Mizpeh, after the murder that had been committed upon Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, strong men, men of war, and women, and children, and eunuchs, whom he had brought back from Gibeon;
17 and they went and dwelt in Geruth-Chimham, which is near Bethlehem. in order to proceed to
18 go into Egypt, out of the reach of the Chaldeans; for they were afraid of them, because that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had slain Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

CHAP. XLII.

1 THEN all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people, from the least
2 even unto the greatest, came near, and said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication come humbly before thee, and pray for us unto JEHOVAH thy God, in behalf of all this remnant, (for we remain a few out of many,
3 as thine eyes do see us) that JEHOVAH thy God may inform us of the way wherein we shall walk, and of the thing which we shall do.
4 And Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard; behold, I will pray unto JEHOVAH your God according to your words; and it shall be that whatsoever thing JEHOVAH shall answer you, I will declare to you; I will not keep any
5 thing from you. And they said to Jeremiah, Let JEHOVAH be a true and faithful witness among us, if according to whatsoever JEHOVAH thy God shall commission thee to say to us, we do not so

act. Whether good or bad, we will obey the voice of JEHOVAH our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we shall have obeyed the voice of JEHOVAH our God

- 7 And it came to pass at the end of ten days, that the word of JEHOVAH came unto Jeremiah.
- 8 Then called he for Johanan the son of Kareah, and for all the captains of the forces that were with him, and for all the people, from the least
- 9 even unto the greatest, and said unto them, Thus saith JEHOVAH, the God of Israel, unto whom ye sent me to lay your supplication humbly be-
- 10 fore him: If ye will indeed remain in this land, then will I build you, and will not pull down; and I will plant you, and will not pluck up; for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto
- 11 you. Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith JEHOVAH; for I will be with you to save you,
- 12 and to deliver you out of his hand. And I will shew mercies unto you; and he shall have mercy upon you, and shall settle you in your own land.
- 13 But if ye say, We will not remain in this land, so as not to hearken unto the voice of JEHOVAH
- 14 your God, saying, No; for we will go into the land of Egypt, that we may not see war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor be hungry
- 15 for bread; and we will reside there: Even now therefore hear the word of JEHOVAH, O remnant of Judah, Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel, If ye will altogether set your faces to
- 16 enter into Egypt, and will go to sojourn there, and the thing shall be; the sword, of which ye are afraid, shall overtake you there in the land of

Egypt; and the famine, of which ye are apprehensive, shall there follow close after you into
17 Egypt; and ye shall die there. And it shall be that all the men, who have set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there, shall die by sword, and by famine, and by pestilence; and there shall not one of them remain, or escape from the evil
18 that I bring upon them. For thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel; As mine anger and my wrath hath been poured out upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem: so shall my wrath be poured out upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt; and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach, and ye
19 shall not see this place any more. The word of JEHOVAH concerning you, O remnant of Judah, Go ye not into Egypt, ye shall know assuredly;
20 for I have testified to you this day. Surely ye have practised deceit against your own souls: for ye sent me unto JEHOVAH your God, saying, Pray for us unto JEHOVAH our God; and according to all that JEHOVAH our God shall say, so declare
21 unto us, and we will do. And I have declared unto you this day, but ye have not hearkened unto the voice of JEHOVAH your God, nor to any thing with which he hath commissioned me unto you.
22 Now therefore ye shall know assuredly, that by sword, and by famine, and by pestilence shall ye die in the place, whither ye have chosen to go to sojourn.

CHAP. XLIII.

1 AND it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the

- words of JEHOVAH their God with which JEHOVAH their God had commissioned him unto them,
2 all these words; that Azariah the son of Hoshai-ah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, said, speaking unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsehood; JEHOVAH our God hath not sent thee to say, Ye shall not go into Egypt to
3 sojourn there. But Baruch the son of Neriah setteth thee on against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans to slay us, and to car-
4 ry us away captive to Babylon. So Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, and all the people, obeyed not the voice of JE-
5 HOVAH, to remain in the land of Judah. But Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, took all the remnant of Judah, who were returned from all the nations whither they had been driven, to dwell in the land of Judah;
6 the men, and the women, and the children, and the king's daughters, and every person whom Nebuzaradan captain of the guards had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch the
7 son of Neriah; and they went into the land of Egypt; for they obeyed not the voice of JEHOVAH: and they came as far as Tahpanhes.
8 Then came the word of JEHOVAH unto Jere-
9 miah in Tahpanhes, saying, Take in thy hand great stones, and hide them in the clay in the brick kiln, which is at the entrance of the house of Pharaoh in Tahpanhes, in the sight of
10 some men of Judah. And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchad-

rezzar king of Babylon my servant, and I will set his throne above these stones which I have hidden, and he shall spread forth his splendour over
11 them. And he shall come and smite the land of Egypt, those that are for death, with death; and those that are for captivity, with captivity; and those that are for the sword, with the sword.
12 And I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt; and he shall burn them, and shall carry them away captive; and he shall clothe himself with the land of Egypt as a shepherd clotheth himself with his garment; and he shall go
13 forth from thence in peace. And he shall break in pieces the images of the house of the Sun, which is in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of Egypt he shall burn with fire.

CHAP. XLIV.

1 THE WORD WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH CONCERNING ALL THE JEWS THAT DWELT IN THE LAND OF EGYPT, THAT DWELT AT MIGDOL, AND AT TAHPANHES, AND AT NOPH, AND IN THE COUNTRY OF PATHROS, SAYING :
2 THUS saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel, Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; for, behold, they are a desolation this day, and
3 there is no inhabitant in them, because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke me to anger, in going to burn incense for to serve strange gods, whom they knew not; they,
4 ye and your fathers. I sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending, saying, Do not, I pray you, this abominable thing
5 which I hate. But they hearkened not, nor in-

clined their ear to turn from their wickedness,
6 and not to burn incense unto strange gods. Therefore hath my wrath been poured out, and mine anger, and hath been kindled against the cities of Judah, and against the streets of Jerusalem; and they are become a desolation and a waste, as
7 at this day. And now thus saith JEHOVAH, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; Wherefore do ye commit great evil against your own souls, to the cutting off among you of man and woman, child and suckling, out of the midst of Judah,
8 without leaving a remnant of you; in provoking me to anger with the works of your own hands, in burning incense to strange gods in the land of Egypt, whither ye are gone to dwell; that there may be a cutting off of you, and that ye may become a curse and a reproach among all nations of
9 the earth? Have ye forgotten the wickednesses of your fathers, and the wickednesses of the kings of Judah, and the wickednesses of the princes thereof, and your own wickednesses, and the wickednesses of your wives, which they have committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets
10 of Jerusalem? They have not been contrite unto this day, neither have they feared, neither have they walked in my law, nor in my statutes, which
11 I set before you, and before your fathers. Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel, Behold, I set my face against you for
12 harm, even to cut off all Judah. And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed in the land of Egypt; they shall fall by the sword, by famine

shall they be consumed, from the least even unto the greatest; by the sword and by famine shall they die; and they shall become an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach.

13 And I will visit upon them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have visited upon Jerusalem, with sword, and with famine, and with pestilence.

14 And the remnant of Judah, those who are come into the land of Egypt with a view to sojourn there, and to return into the land of Judah, whither they set their minds upon returning, to dwell there, shall not have one escaper or survivor; whereas none shall return but escapers.

15 Then all the men, who knew that their wives had burned incense unto strange gods, and all the women that stood by, a great company, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt in
16 Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, As for the word which thou hast spoken unto us in the name of JEHOVAH, we will not hearken unto thee.

17 But we will surely perform what is gone forth out of our mouth, in burning incense unto the regency of the heavens, and pouring out libations thereunto; like as we did, we, and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, when we had plenty of bread, and were prosperous, and saw

18 no adversity. But from the time we left off to burn incense unto the regency of the heavens, and to pour out libations thereunto, we have been in want of every thing, and have been con-

19 sumed by the sword and by famine. And when we burned incense unto the regency of the heavens, pouring out also libations thereunto, did we,

exclusively of our men, make cakes for it, worshipping it, and pouring out libations thereunto?

- 20 Then spake Jeremiah unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, even to all the people, who had returned him an answer, saying,
- 21 The incense which ye have burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land with them, hath not JEHOVAH remembered? and hath it been acceptable unto him? But JEHOVAH could no longer bear because of the wickedness of your doings, because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land become a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, so as to be
- 22 without an inhabitant at this day. Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against JEHOVAH, and have not obeyed the voice of JEHOVAH, nor walked according to his law and to his statutes, and to his testimonies; therefore hath this calamity befallen you, as at this day.

- 24 Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, Hear ye the word of JEHO-
- 25 VAH, all Judah, that are in the land of Egypt: Thus hath JEHOVAH of hosts the God of Israel, spoken, saying, As for you and your women, they have even spoken with your mouths, and with your hands have ye fulfilled, saying, We will surely perform our vows which we have vowed, to burn incense to the regency of the heavens, and to pour out libations thereunto; they will surely make good your vows, they will surely accomplish
- 26 your vows. Therefore hear ye the word of JEHO-

27 **VAH**, all Judah, that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith **JEHOVAH**, that my name shall no more be called upon by the mouth of any man of Judah, saying, As **JEHOVAH** liveth, throughout all the land of Egypt. Behold I will watch over them for evil, and not in kindness; and they shall be consumed, every man of Judah which is in the land of Egypt, by the sword, and by famine, until there be an end of them. And the escapers from the sword, that shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, shall be few in number: and all the remnant of Judah, that are come into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose word shall stand good, mine or theirs. And this shall be the sign unto you, that it is I that visit upon you in this place, to the end that ye may know that my words shall be surely verified upon you to [your] hurt; Behold, I will deliver Pharaoh-Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of them that seek his life; like as I have delivered Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon his enemy, and who sought his life.

CHAP. XLVI.

1 **THE WORD OF JEHOVAH WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH THE PROPHET CONCERNING THE NATIONS.**

2 **OF EGYPT.**

CONCERNING THE ARMY OF PHARAOH-NECHO KING OF EGYPT, WHICH WAS BY THE RIVER EUPHRATES AT CARCHEMISH, WHICH NEBUCHADREZZAR KING OF BABYLON DEFEATED, IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF JEHOIAKIM THE SON OF JOSIAH KING OF JUDAH.

- 3 ORDER ye the buckler and shield,
And move on to battle.
- 4 Harness the horses; and mount, ye horsemen;
And stand forth with helmets;
Make bright the spears, put on the coats of mail.
- 5 Wherefore have I seen thee in dismay?
Put to the rout, even their mighty ones are beaten
down;
And they are fled amain, and have not looked
back.
Fear is on every side, saith JEHOVAH:
- 6 Let not the swift flee away;
Neither thall the mighty escape;
Northward by the side of the river Euphrates
They have stumbled, and shall fall.
- 7 Who is he that riseth up like a river,
Whose waters swell like floods?
- 8 Egypt riseth up like a river,
And like floods do his waters swell.
He saith, I will arise, I will cover the land,
I will destroy the city, and those that dwell
therein.
- 9 Mount ye the horses, and deal furiously;
The chariots, and let the warriors go forth:
Cush and Phut handling the shield,
And the Ludim expert in the use of the bow.
- 10 But this is the day of the Lord,
A day of vengeance of JEHOVAH of hosts,
To avenge himself of his enemies; and the sword
shall devour;
It shall also be satiated, and drenched in their
blood;
For the Lord JEHOVAH of hosts hath a sacrifice,
In the north country, by the river Euphrates.

- 11 Go up to Gilead, and take balm,
O virgin daughter of Egypt;
In vain hast thou multiplied medicines,
There is no cure for thee.
- 12 The nations have heard of thy disgrace,
And thine outcry hath filled the earth:
For they have stumbled, the mighty against the
mighty,
They are both of them fallen together.
- 13 THE WORD WHICH JEHOVAH SPAKE TO JEREMIAH
THE PROPHET CONCERNING THE COMING OF NEBUCHAD-
REZZAR KING OF BABYLON TO SMITE THE LAND OF E-
GYPT. •
- 14 DECLARE ye in Egypt, and publish ye in
Midgol,
Publish ye also in Noph, and in Tahpanhes say ye;
Stand firm, and prepare thyself,
For the sword hath devoured those that are
round about thee.
- 15 Wherefore is thy mighty one overthrown?
He stood not, because JEHOVAH pushed him down.
- 16 He hath caused many to stumble, yea, to fall;
They said therefore one to another,
Arise, and let us return to our people,
And to our native country, because of the op-
pressor's sword.
- 17 They cried there, O Pharaoh king of Egypt,
A tumult hath frustrated the appointed meeting.
- 18 As I live, saith the king,
Whose name is JEHOVAH of hosts,
Surely like Tabor among the mountains,
And like Carmel by the sea, shall one come.
- 19 Get ready thy equipage for removing,

O inhabiting daughter of Egypt ;
For Noph shall become a desolation,
It shall also be destroyed, so as to have no inhabitant.

- 20 Egypt is a heifer of a beautiful countenance,
A breeze from the north is coming against her.
- 21 Her mercenaries also in the midst of her are like
bullocks of the stall ;
Yet even these have turned their backs,
They are fled together, they made no stand ;
Because the day of their destruction was come,
The time of their visitation was upon them.
- 22 Her voice shall proceed like that of an enchanter,
When they shall advance with force and with
axes ;
Come ye against her, like fellers of trees,
- 23 Cut down her forest, saith JEHOVAH,
That it may not be found on searching ;
Although they surpass the locusts in multitude,
And they are without number.
- 24 The daughter of Egypt is confounded ;
She is given into the hand of the people of the
north.
- 25 JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel, hath said ;
Behold, I will visit upon Ammon of No,
And upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt,
And upon her gods, and upon her kings ;
Even upon Pharaoh, and upon those that depend
upon him.
- 26 And I will deliver them into the hand of those
that seek their life,
Even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of
Babylon,
And into the hand of his servants :

But after this shall it be inhabited,
As in days of old, saith JEHOVAH.

27 But fear thou not, O my servant Jacob,
Neither be thou dismayed, O Israel;
For, behold, I will bring thee safe from afar,
And thy seed from the land of their captivity;
And Jacob shall again be at rest,
He shall also be secure, and there shall be none
to make him afraid.

28 Fear thou not, O my servant Jacob,
Saith JEHOVAH, for I will be with thee;
When I shall make a full end of all the nations,
Whither I have driven thee,
Yet of thee will I not make a full end;
But I will correct thee with moderation,
And will not make thee altogether desolate.

CHAP. XLVII.

1 THE WORD OF JEHOVAH, WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH
THE PROPHET CONCERNING THE PHILISTINES, BEFORE
THAT PHARAOH SMOTE GAZA,

2 THUS saith JEHOVAH,
Behold, waters are coming up out of the north,
And they shall become an overflowing torrent,
And shall overflow the land, and all that is there-
in;

The city, and those that dwell in it;
And the men shall cry aloud,
And every inhabitant of the land shall wail.

3 At the noise of the galloping of the hoofs of his
steeds,
At the rattling of the multitude of his wheels,
as he drove along,
Fathers turned not to look after children,

For slackness of hands.

- 4 Because of the day that is coming
To lay waste all the Philistines,
To cut off from Tyre and from Sidon
Every helper that remaineth ;
(For JEHOVAH will lay the Philistines waste,
The remnant of the country of Caphtor)
- 5 Baldness is come unto Gaza :
Ashkelon is put to silence.
O thou remnant of their valley,
How long wilt thou slash thyself?
- 6 Ho ! sword of JEHOVAH !
How long wilt thou not be at rest?
Retire into thy scabbard,
Return, and be still.
- 7 How can it be at rest,
Since JEHOVAH hath given it a charge?
Against Ashkelon, and against the sea coast,
There hath he appointed it.

CHAP. XLVIII.

1

CONCERNING MOAB.

THUS saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel ;

Wo unto Nebo ! for it is spoiled ;
Kirjathaim is confounded, is taken ;
It is confounded, the high fortress, and broken down.

- 2 Moab shall have no more glorying in Heshbon ;
They have devised evil against her, [saying]
Come, and let us cut her off from being a nation :
Thou also, O Madmen, shall be put to silence ;
A sword shall follow after thee.

- 3 A cry is heard from Horonaim,
Desolation and great destruction.
- 4 Moab is destroyed;
Her diminished ones have caused a cry to be
heard.
- 5 Surely at the ascent of Luhith
Weeping shall go up after weeping;
Surely at the descent of Horonaim
Mine enemies have heard a cry of destruction.
- 6 Flee ye, save your lives,
And be like a blasted tree in the wilderness.
- 7 For because thou hast trusted in thy acquisitions,
Therefore with thy treasures shalt thou thyself
also be taken:
And Chemosh shall go into captivity,
His priests and his princes together.
- 8 A spoiler also shall come unto every city,
And there shall not a city escape;
And the valley shall perish, and the plain shall
be destroyed,
According as JEHOVAH hath spoken.
- 9 Give wings unto Moab,
That she may fly quite away;
And let her cities become a desolation,
That there be no inhabitant in them.
- 10 Cursed is he that executeth the work of JEHO-
VAH deceitfully;
And cursed is he that keepeth back his sword
from blood.
- 11 Moab hath been at ease from his youth,
And he hath settled upon his lees,
And hath not been drawn off from vessel to vessel,
Neither hath he gone into exile:
Therefore hath his taste remained in him,

And his flavour hath not changed.

12 Nevertheless, behold, the days come, saith JEHOVAH,

That I will send unto him tilters, that shall tilt him down,

And shall empty his vessels, and break their pitchers to pieces.

13 And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh,
As the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel their confidence.

14 How will ye say, We are mighty ones,
And men of strength for war?

15 A spoiler of Moab and of her cities is gone up,
And the choice of his young men are gone down to slay,

Saith the king, whose name is JEHOVAH of hosts.

16 The destruction of Moab is near approaching,
And his calamity hasteth on apace.

17 Bemone him, all ye that are round about him;
And all ye that know his name, say,
How is the sceptre of strength broken!
The rod of beauty!

18 Come down from splendour, and sit in thirst,
O inhabitant daughter of Dibon;
Because the spoiler of Moab is come up against thee,

A destroyer of thy strong holds.

19 Stand by the way side, and look out,
O thou inhabitress of Aroer;
Ask of him that fleeth, and of her that is escaped,

Say, what hath been done?

20 Moab is confounded, because he is broken down;
Howl ye, and cry:

- Publish ye in Arnon,
That Moab is spoiled.
- 21 Judgment also is come upon the plain country,
Upon Holon, and upon Jahatza, and upon
Mephaath,
- 22 And upon Dibon, and upon Nebo, and upon
Beth-dibla-thaim,
- 23 And upon Kirjathaim, and upon Beth-gamul,
and upon Beth-meon,
- 24 And upon Kerieth, and upon Botsra,
And upon all the cities of the land of Moab,
Those that are far off, and those that are near.
- 25 The horn of Moab is cut off,
And his arm is broken, saith JEHOVAH.
- 26 Make him drunken, because he hath puffed him-
self up against JEHOVAH ;
And clap at Moab in his vomiting,
That he also may become an object of derision.
- 27 For was not Israel the object of thy derision ?
Was he found among thieves,
That thou shouldst insult him with all the power
of thy words ?
- 28 Leave the cities, and dwell in the rock,
O inhabitants of Moab, and be ye like a dove,
That maketh her nest by the sides of the pit's
mouth.
- 29 We have heard of the pride of Moab ;
His haughtiness is exceedingly supereminent,
His pride also, and his arrogance, and the lifting
up of his heart :
- 30 I know, saith JEHOVAH, his fierce wrath ;
But he is not alike in the extent of his ability,
He is not alike in performing.
- 31 Therefore for Moab will I wail,

Even for all Moab will I cry out ;
Unto the men of Kir-heres
Shall Jaazer make moan inarticulately through
weeping.

32 I will weep for thee, O vine of Sibmah :
Thy shoots have passed beyond the sea,
Unto Jaazer have they extended ;
Upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage a
spoiler hath fallen.

33 And joy and gladness shall be taken away
From the fruitful field, even from the land of
Moab ;
And wine from the presses have I caused to
cease ;

The treader shall not tread,
The shouting shall be no shouting.

34 From the cry of Heshbon unto Elealeh,
Unto Jahatz have they sent forth their voice,
From Zoar even unto Horonaim,
[Like] a heifer of three years old ;
For even the waters of Nimrim shall become de-
solate ;

35 And I will cause to cease in Moab, saith JEHO-
VAH,
Him that erecteth a high place, and that burneth
incense to his gods,

36 Therefore shall my heart sound like pipes for
Moab,
Even my heart unto the men of Kir-heres shall
sound like pipes ;
Therefore the reserves which he had made are pe-
rished.

37 Surely every head is baldness,
And every beard is shorn :

- Upon all hands are cuttings,
And upon all loins sackcloth.
- 38 Upon all the house tops of Moab,
And in the streets thereof lamentation is complete ;
Because I have broken Moab as a vessel,
In which none hath pleasure, saith JEHOVAH.
- 39 How is he broken down ! have they howled ;
How hath Moab turned the back !
Moab is ashamed, and shall become an object of derision,
And a terror to all that are round about him.
- 40 For thus saith JEHOVAH ;
Behold like an eagle shall one fly,
And shall spread forth his wings over Moab :
- 41 The cities are taken, and the strong holds are surprized ;
And the heart of the mighty men of Moab shall be in that day
As the heart of a woman in pangs.
- 42 And Moab shall be destroyed, so as to be no more a people,
Because he hath puffed himself up against JEHOVAH.
- 43 The terror, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee,
O inhabitant of Moab, saith JEHOVAH.
- 44 He that fleeth from before the terror, shall fall into the pit ;
And he that getteth up out of the pit, shall be taken in the snare ;
For I will bring lamentation unto Moab,
The year of their visitation, saith JEHOVAH.

- 45 Those that fled made a stand under the shadow of
Heshbon for strength ;
But a fire is gone forth out of Heshbon,
And a flame from the midst of Sihon,
And hath consumed the quarter of Moab,
And the capital seat of the sons of tumult.
- 46 Wo unto thee, O Moab !
Thou art undone, O people of Chemosh ;
For they have taken thy sons captives,
Thy daughters also captives.
- 47 But I will turn again the captivity of Moab
In the latter days, saith JEHOVAH.—
Thus far the judgment of Moab.

CHAP. XLIX.

1 CONCERNING THE CHILDREN OF AMMON.

- THUS saith JEHOVAH,
Hath Israel no sons?
Hath he not an heir?
Why hath Milcom taken possession of Gad?
And his people dwelt in the cities thereof?
- 2 Therefore behold the days come, saith JEHOVAH,
That I will cause to be heard in Rabbah of the
children of Ammon an alarm of war,
And she shall become a heap of desolation;
And her daughters shall be destroyed by fire:
And Israel shall take to their possessions who
have taken to his,
Saith JEHOVAH.
- 3 Howl, O Heshbon, for Ai is spoiled;
Cry, ye daughters of Rabbah;
Gird on sackcloth, lament,
And run ye to and fro within the fences;
For Milcom shall go into captivity,

His priests and his princes together.

4 Wherefore dost thou glory in vallies?

Though thy valley be fruitful, O perverse daughter,
ter,

That glorieth in her treasures,

That saith in her heart,

Who shall come unto me?

5 Behold, I will bring a terror upon thee,

Saith the Lord JEHOVAH of hosts,

From all parts round about thee;

And ye shall be driven every one before it,

And there shall be none to rally again him that
is fled.

6 But after this I will turn again the captivity

Of the children of Ammon, saith JEHOVAH.

7

CONCERNING IDUMEA.

THUS saith JEHOVAH of hosts;

Is there no more any wisdom in Teman?

Is counsel passed away from the prudent?

Hath their wisdom overshot itself?

8 Flee ye, turn your backs,

Retire deep for to dwell, .

O ye inhabitants of Dedan;

Because the calamity of Esau have I brought,

The time of his visitation, upon him.

9 If grape gatherers come unto thee,

They shall not leave any gleanings;

If thieves by night,

They shall plunder enough to suffice them:

10 For I have laid Esau bare,

I have exposed his hiding places,

So that he cannot conceal himself;

His seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his
neighbours,

And there is nothing of him left.

11 Shall I preserve the life of thy fatherless children?
Or shall thy widows trust in me?

12 Surely thus hath JEHOVAH said,
Behold, they, whose right it was not to have
drunken,

Have indeed drunken of the cup;

And shalt thou, the very one, go altogether un-
punished?

Thou shalt not go unpunished,

But thou shalt assuredly drink.

13 For by myself I have sworn, saith JEHOVAH,
'That an astonishment, a reproach, a desolation,
And an execration, shall Botsra become;
And all her cities shall become perpetual wastes.

14 I have heard a proclamation from JEHOVAH,
And an ambassador sent among the nations, (say-
ing)

Assemble yourselves, and come against her,
And arise to battle.

15 Behold, I have made thee of small account a-
mong the nations,
Contemptible among the men of whom thou art
horribly afraid.

16 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee,
O thou that dwellest within the incirclings of
the Rock,

That occupiest the height of a hill;

Though thou settest on high thy nest as an eagle,
From thence will I bring thee down, saith JEHO-
VAH.

17 And Idumea shall become an object of astonish-
ment,

Every one that passeth by her shall be astonished,
And shall hiss because of all her calamities.

18 According to the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah,

And of the neighbouring places thereof, saith JEHOVAH,

There shall not a man dwell there,
Neither shall a son of man sojourn in her.

19 Behold, as a lion cometh up,
A strong one from the swelling of Jordan against a fold,

When I throw her into disorder, I will cause him to run away from her;

And him that is chosen will I commission against her;

For who is like me? or who shall prescribe to me?
Or who is that shepherd, that can stand before me?

20 Therefore hear ye the counsel of JEHOVAH,

Which he hath taken against Idumea;

And his purposes which he hath purposed

Against the inhabitants of Teman:

Surely they shall be dragged away from the little ones of the flock;

Surely he will make their habitation astonished at them.

21 At the noise of their fall the earth trembleth;

It crieth out; at the Red sea is heard the voice thereof.

22 Behold he shall mount and fly like an eagle,

And shall expand his wings over Botsra;

And the heart of the strong men of Moab shall be in that day

As the heart of a woman in pangs.

23

CONCERNING DAMASCUS.

HAMATH is confounded, and Arphad,
Because they have heard evil tidings;
They are melted into a sea of solicitude,
Which cannot be at rest.

24

Damascus is enfeebled;
She hath turned herself to flee,
And trembling hath seized her,
Distress hath laid hold on her,
And pangs as on a woman in travail.

25

How have they not left her a city of praise,
A city of my joy!

26

Therefore shall her young men fall in her broad
places,

And all the men of war;
They shall be put to silence in that day,
Saith JEHOVAH of hosts.

27

And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus,
And it shall consume the palaces of Ben-hadad.

28

CONCERNING KEDAR, AND CONCERNING THE KING-
DOMS OF HAZOR, WHICH NEBUCHADREZZAR KING OF
BABYLON SMOTE.

THUS hath JEHOVAH said;

Arise ye, go up to Kedar,
And spoil the children of Kedem.

29

Their tents and their flocks let them take,
Their curtains and all their furniture;
And their camels let them carry off for their own
use;

And let them bring upon them terror from every
side.

30

Flee ye, move off apace,
Retire deep for to dwell,

O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith JEHOVAH;
For Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath taken
counsel against you,

And hath devised a device against you.

- 31 Arise ye, go up against a nation at ease,
That dwelleth securely, saith JEHOVAH;
Which have neither gates nor bars;
They dwell apart by themselves.

- 32 And their camels shall be for plunder,
And the multitude of their cattle for spoil,
And I will scatter them into every quarter of
those that inhabit the insulated coast;
And from all sides thereof will I bring their ca-
lamity,

Saith JEHOVAH.

- 33 And Hazor shall become a dwelling for dragons,
A desolation for ever;
There shall not a man dwell there,
Nor shall a son of man sojourn therein.

- 34 THE WORD OF JEHOVAH WHICH CAME TO JEREMIAH
THE PROPHET CONCERNING ELAM, IN THE BEGINNING
OF THE REIGN OF ZEDEKIAH KING OF JUDAH, SAYING,

- 35 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts;
Behold I am about to break the bow of Elam,
The principal part of their strength.

- 36 And I will bring against Elam four winds
From the four extremities of the heavens,
And I will scatter them before all those winds;
And there shall not be that nation,
Whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come.

- 37 And I will cause Elam to be dismayed before the
face of their enemies,
And before the face of them that seek their life;
And I will bring evil upon them,
The fierceness of mine anger, saith JEHOVAH;

- And I will send after them the sword,
Until I have consumed them.
- 38 And I will set my throne in Elam,
And I will destroy from thence king and princes,
Saith JEHOVAH.
- 39 But it shall come to pass at the end of days,
That I will turn again the captivity of Elam,
Saith JEHOVAH.

CHAP. L.

- 1 THE WORD WHICH JEHOVAH SPAKE CONCERNING BABYLON, AND CONCERNING THE LAND OF CHALDEA, BY THE MINISTRY OF JEREMIAH THE PROPHET.
- 2 TELL ye among the nations, and publish ;
And lift up a standard, publish, conceal not ;
Say ye, Babylon is taken,
Bel is confounded,
Merodach is broken,
Her idols are confounded,
Her abominations are broken.
- 3 For a nation is come up against her from the north,
Which shall reduce her land to desolation,
So that there shall be no inhabitant therein :
Both man and beast are fled,
They are gone in those days.
- 4 BUT at that time, saith JEHOVAH,
The children of Israel shall come,
They, and the children of Judah together,
They shall go, weeping as they go along,
And shall seek JEHOVAH their God.
- 5 They shall inquire for Sion, with their faces
thitherward,
They shall come, and shall join themselves to JEHOVAH.

In an everlasting covenant, that shall not be forgotten.

6 Lost sheep have my people been,
Their shepherds have caused them to stray on the mountains;

Turning aside from mountain to hill,
They have gone, they have forgotten their resting place.

7 All that met with them devoured them,
For their adversaries said, We shall commit no trespass,

Because they have sinned against JEHOVAH,
The legitimate fold and recourse of their fathers.

8 Remove out of the midst of Babylon,
And out of the land of Chaldea go ye forth,
And be ye like he-goats before the flock.

9 For, behold, I am about to raise up,
And will bring against Babylon,
An assembly of great nations from the north country;

And will array them against her; whereby she shall be taken;

Their arrows, like those of a skilful warrior,
Shall not return empty.

10 And Chaldea shall be for spoil,
All that spoil her shall have their fill, saith JEHOVAH.

11 When ye shall have rejoiced, when ye shall have triumphed,

O ye plunderers of mine inheritance;

When ye shall be grown fat like a heifer that treadeth,

And shall have neighed like steeds :

12 Your mother shall be greatly confounded,

- She that bare you shall be ashamed;
Behold her the last of the nations,
A desert, a land of drought, and a wilderness.
- 13 Because of the wrath of JEHOVAH she shall not
be re-established,
But she shall be desolate altogether;
Every one that passeth by Babylon shall be as-
tonished,
And shall hiss because of all her calamities.
- 14 Order ye against Babylon round about,
All ye that bend the bow,
Shoot at her, spare not the arrow;
Because she hath sinned against JEHOVAH.
- 15 Shout over her round about;
She hath surrendered herself,
Her battlements are fallen,
Her walls are thrown down;
Because it is the avenging of JEHOVAH,
Take ye vengeance upon her;
As she hath done, do ye unto her.
- 16 Cut off the sower from Babylon,
And him that handleth the sickle in harvest time;
Because of the sword of the destroyer,
They shall turn every one to his own people,
And they shall flee every one to his own land.
- 17 Lions have worried Israel, a scattered sheep;
First the king of Assyria devoured him;
And this latter hath picked him to the bone,
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon.
- 18 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God
of Israel,
Behold I will execute judgment upon the king
of Babylon, and upon his land,
Like as I have executed judgment upon the king
of Assyria.

- 19 But I will bring back Israel to his own fold,
And he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan,
And upon mount Ephraim and Gilead
Shall his appetite be satisfied in those days.
- 20 And at that time, saith JEHOVAH,
Shall inquiry be made after the iniquity of Israel,
and there shall be none,
And after the sins of Judah, but they shall not
be found;
For I will pardon those whom I have reserved.
- 21 Against the land of bitternesses go up,
Upon it and upon its inhabitants visit, O sword,
And utterly destroy their posterity, saith JEHO-
VAH,
And perform according to all that I have charg-
ed thee.
- 22 There is a sound of war in the land,
Even great destruction.
- 23 How is the hammer of the whole earth cut off and
broken!
How is Babylon become an astonishment among
the nations!
- 24 I have laid a snare for thee, and thou hast also
been caught,
O Babylon, when thou wast not aware:
Thou hast been met with, and also taken by sur-
prise,
Because thou hast contended against JEHOVAH.
- 25 JEHOVAH hath opened his arsenal,
And hath brought forth the weapons of his indig-
nation;
For this is the work of the Lord,
Of JEHOVAH of hosts in the land of Chaldea.
- 26 Come ye against her from end to end,

- Open her fattening stalls,
Trample her like heaps, and utterly destroy her,
Let there be no remains of her.
- 27 Slay all her bullocks,
Let them go down to the slaughter;
Wo unto them!
For their day is come,
The time of their visitation.
- 28 The voice of them that are fled and escaped out
of the land of Babylon,
To declare in Sion the vengeance of JEHOVAH our
God,
The vengeance of his temple.
- 29 Commanders have proclaimed concerning Baby-
lon,
All ye that bend the bow,
Encamp against her round about,
Let none of her escape;
Recompense her according to her work,
According to all that she hath done, do unto
her;
Because she hath acted proudly against JEHO-
VAH,
Against the holy One of Israel.
- 30 Therefore shall her young men fall in her broad
places,
And all her men of war;
They shall be put to silence in that day, saith JE-
HOVAH.
- 31 Behold I am against thee, O proud one,
Saith the Lord JEHOVAH of hosts;
Surely thy day is come,
The time of thy visitation.
- 32 And the proud one shall stumble and fall,

And there shall be none to raise him up;
And I will kindle a fire in his cities,
And it shall consume all that are round about him.

33 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts,
The children of Israel [have been] oppressed,
And the children of Judah together;
And all they that carried them away captive held
them fast,

They refused to let them go.

34 Their Redeemer is strong,
JEHOVAH of hosts is his name:
He will surely maintain their cause,
So as to cause a commotion in the earth,
And to make the inhabitants of Babylon to
tremble.

35 A sword [shall be] upon the Chaldeans, saith JE-
HOVAH,

And upon the inhabitants of Babylon,
And upon the princes thereof,
And upon the wise men thereof;

36 A sword upon the impostors, and they shall be
infatuated;

A sword upon her mighty men, and they shall
be dismayed;

37 A sword upon her horses, and upon her chariots,
And upon all the mixed multitude which is in
the midst of her,

And they shall become like women;

A sword upon her treasures, and they shall be
plundered;

38 A sword upon her waters, and they shall be dried
up: . . .

Because it is the land of graven images,
And in idols do they glory,

- 39 Therefore shall wild cats with jackals dwell,
The daughters of the ostrich also shall dwell in
her ;
And she shall not be re-established any more for
ever,
Neither shall she be inhabited from generation to
generation.
- 40 According as when God overthrew Sodom and
Gomorrah,
And the neighbouring places thereof, saith JE-
HOVAH,
There shall not a man dwell there,
Neither shall a son of man sojourn in her.
- 41 Behold a people cometh from the north, even a
great nation,
And many kings shall be roused from the extre-
mities of the earth ;
- 42 The bow and the spear shall they take in hand ;
Cruel are they, and they will shew no mercy ;
Their voice shall roar as the sea ;
And upon horses shall they ride,
In orderly array, as men for battle,
Against thee, O daughter of Babylon.
- 43 The king of Babylon hath heard the rumour of
them,
And his hands are waxed feeble ;
Distress hath taken hold on him,
Pain, as on a woman in travail.
- 44 Behold, as a lion cometh up,
A strong one from the swelling of Jordan against
a fold,
When I throw her into disorder, I will cause them
to run away from her ;
And him that is chosen will I commission against
her :

For who is like me? or who shall prescribe to me?
Or who is that shepherd that can stand before me?
45 Therefore hear ye the counsel of JEHOVAH,
Which he hath taken against Babylon,
And his purposes which he hath purposed
Against the inhabitants of Chaldea:
Surely they shall be dragged away from the lit-
tle ones of the flock;
Surely he will make their habitation astonished
at them.
At the voice, BABYLON IS TAKEN, the earth is
moved;
And the cry thereof is heard among the nations.

CHAP. LI.

- 1 Thus saith JEHOVAH,
Behold, I will raise up against Babylon,
And against those that dwell in the heart of mine
adversaries,
A destroying wind.
- 2 And I will send against Babylon winnowers,
And they shall winnow her; and shall empty her
land;
For they shall be against her round about,
In the day of trouble by the way side.
- 3 Let the archer bend his bow,
And let him not lift himself up in his brigandine;
And spare ye not her young men,
Destroy utterly her whole army;
- 4 And they shall fall down slain in the land of
Chaldea,
And thrust through in her streets.
- 5 For Israel is not forsaken, nor Judah,
Of his God, of JEHOVAH of hosts;

But their land is filled with a trespass offering
By the holy One of Israel.

- 6 Flee ye out of the midst of Babylon,
And save ye every man his life,
That ye be not cut off in her punishment :
For it is the time of JEHOVAH's vengeance ;
A recompence will he render unto her.
- 7 Babylon is a golden cup in the hand of JEHOVAH,
Intoxicating the whole earth ;
(Of the wine thereof nations have drunken ;
Therefore shall nations glory, [saying])
- 8 Babylon is suddenly fallen,
And broken ; howl over her ;
Take ye balm for her anguish,
If so be she may be healed.
- 9 We have applied remedies to Babylon, but she is
not healed ;
Leave her, and let us go every one to his own coun-
try ;
For her judgment hath reached unto the hea-
vens,
And is lifted up unto the skies.
- 10 JEHOVAH hath brought forth our deliverances ;
Come ye, and let us declare in Sion
The work of JEHOVAH our God.
- 11 Make bright the arrows, fill the quivers ;
JEHOVAH hath roused up the spirit of the kings
of Media ;
For his purpose is against Babylon, to destroy it ;
Surely it is the vengeance of JEHOVAH,
The vengeance of his temple.
- 12 Before the walls of Babylon set up a standard,
Keep a strong guard, place sentinels,
Prepare ye liers in ambush ;

For as JEHOVAH hath purposed,
He hath also done that which he hath spoken,
Concerning the inhabitants of Babylon.

13 O thou that dwellest by the side of many waters,
that aboundest in treasures,
Thine end is come, O handmaid of thy covetous-
ness.

14 JEHOVAH of hosts hath sworn by himself,
Surely I will fill thee with men, as with locusts,
And they shall send forth a shouting against thee.

15 He hath made the earth by his power,
Establishing the world by his wisdom;
By his understanding also hath he spread out the
heavens.

16 When he exerteth his voice, there is a tumult of
waters in the heavens,
And he maketh clouds to rise from the extremity
of the earth ;
He produceth lightnings with rain,
And bringeth the wind forth out of his maga-
zines.

17 Every man becometh a brute by acknowledging,
Every goldsmith is put to shame by graving,
When they have set up false objects of worship,
And such as have no breath in them.

18 Vanity are these, the work of those that greatly
err ;

In the time of their visitation they shall perish.

19 Not like these is the portion of Jacob ;
For he is the former of the universe,
And Israel is the rod of his inheritance ;
JEHOVAH of hosts is his name.

20 O battle-ax, thou shalt be my weapon of war ;
And with thee will I break in pieces nations ;

- And with thee will I destroy kingdoms ;
21 And with thee will I break in pieces the horse
and his rider ;
And with thee will I break in pieces the chariot
and its driver ;
22 And with thee will I break in pieces husband and
wife ;
And with thee will I break in pieces old man and
boy ;
And with thee will I break in pieces young man
and maiden ;
23 And with thee will I break in pieces the shepherd
and his flock ;
And with thee will I break in pieces the husband-
man and his team ;
And with thee will I break in pieces magistrates
and rulers.
24 And I will render unto Babylon,
And to all the inhabitants of Chaldea,
All their evil which they have done in Sion,
Before your eyes, saith JEHOVAH.
25 Behold, I am against thee, O destroying moun-
tain,
Saith JEHOVAH, that destroyeth the whole earth ;
And I will stretch out my hand over thee,
And I will roll thee down from the rocks,
And I will make thee a burning mountain !
26 And they shall not take of thee a stone for a cor-
ner,
Or a stone for foundations ;
But thou shalt be perpetual desolations, saith JE-
HOVAH.
27 Lift up a standard in the land,
Sound a trumpet among the nations,

- Enlist nations against her,
Summon kingdoms against her,
Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz ;
Commission a commander against her,
Cause cavalry to come up like the bristled locust.
- 28 Enlist nations against her,
The king of Media, the captains thereof,
And all the rulers thereof,
And all the land under his dominion.
- 29 And let the land tremble, and be in pain ;
For the purpose of JEHOVAH against Babylon
standeth sure,
To make the land of Babylon a desolation,
Without an inhabitant.
- 30 The mighty men of Babylon have ceased to
fight,
They have remained in strong holds,
Their strength hath failed,
They are become like women ;
Her habitations are burned,
Her bars are broken.
- 31 Courier shall run to meet courier,
And messenger to meet messenger,
To acquaint the king of Babylon,
That his city is taken from end to end ;
- 32 And the passages are surprized,
And the porches they have burned with fire,
And the men of war are stricken with terror.
- 33 For thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts, the God of Israel ;
The daughter of Babylon is as a threshing floor ;
The time of her threshing, yet a little while, and
it shall come,
The time of cutting short in her.

- 34 Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath devoured
us, hath destroyed us ;
He hath made us vessels of emptiness ;
He hath swallowed us up like a dragon, he hath
filled his maw ;
From the scene of our delight hath he cast us out.
- 35 Let his violences done to my flesh be upon Babylon,
Shall the inhabitress of Sion say ;
And my blood upon the inhabitants of Chaldea,
Shall Jerusalem say.
- 36 Therefore thus saith JEHOVAH,
Behold I will plead thy cause,
And I will avenge thy wrongs ;
And I will drain her sea,
And I will make her spring dry.
- 37 And Babylon shall become heaps,
An habitation of dragons,
An object of astonishment and hissing,
Without an inhabitant.
- 38 Together shall they roar like lions,
They are roused like lions whelps.
- 39 In their heat I will supply them with drink,
And I will make them drunk, that they may exult,
And may sleep an everlasting sleep,
And not wake again, saith JEHOVAH.
- 40 I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter,
Like rams with he-goats.
- 41 How is Sheshach taken !
And the praise of the whole earth surprized !
How is Babylon become an astonishment among
the nations !
- 42 The sea is come up over Babylon,
With the multitude of its waves is she covered.
- 43 Her cities are become a desolation,

- A land of drought, and a wilderness ;
 No man shall dwell in them,
 Neither shall the son of man pass through them.
- 44 And I will execute judgment upon Bel in Babylon,
 And will bring forth out of his mouth that which
 he hath swallowed,
 And nations shall not flock unto him any more ;
 The wall also of Babylon is fallen.
- 45 Go ye forth out of the midst of her, O my people,
 And save ye every one his own life,
 Because of the fierce anger of JEHOVAH ;
- 46 And lest your heart faint,
 And ye be afraid because of the rumour heard in
 the land.
 For the rumour shall come in a year,
 And in a year after that the rumour,
 And violence in the land,
 Ruler against Ruler.
- 47 After this, behold, the days come,
 When I will execute judgment upon the graven
 images of Babylon ;
 And her whole land shall be confounded,
 And all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.
- 48 And the heavens and the earth shall shout over
 Babylon ;
 And all that is in them,
 When from the north there shall come against
 her
 The spoilers, saith JEHOVAH.
- 49 As Babylon hath caused the slain of Israel to fall,
 So through Babylon have fallen slain of the whole
 earth.

- 50 Ye that are escaped from her sword, go,
Stand not still,
Call to mind JEHOVAH from afar,
And let Jerusalem gain possession of your heart.
- 51 We have been confounded, because we have heard
reproach,
Shame hath covered our faces,
Because aliens have entered
Into the sanctuaries of the house of JEHOVAH.
- 52 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith JEHOVAH,
That I will execute judgment upon her graven
images,
And through all her land the wounded shall groan.
- 53 Though Babylon shall have mounted up to the
heavens,
And though she shall have fenced high her strength,
From me shall spoilers come unto her, saith JE-
HOVAH.
- 54 The voice of a cry from Babylon,
And of great destruction from the land of Chal-
dea !
- 55 For JEHOVAH spoileth Babylon,
And destroyeth from out of her a great voice ;
Their waves also roar like great waters,
Their sound hath caused a tumult.
- 56 Surely there is come against her,
Against Babylon a spoiler :
And her mighty men shall be taken,
And every one of her bows broken ;
For a God of retributions,
JEHOVAH, will surely requite.
- 57 And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise
men,
Her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men ;

And they shall sleep an everlasting sleep,
And not wake again, saith the King,
Whose name is JEHOVAH of hosts.

- 58 Thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts,
The wall of Babylon, the broad one, shall be utterly razed,
And her gates, the lofty ones, shall be burned with fire;
And peoples shall labour to the utmost extent of annihilation,
And nations with all the power of fire, until they be weary.

- 59 THE WORD which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went on the behalf of Zedekiah king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year
60 of his reign; for Seraiah carried a present. And Jeremiah wrote all the evil that was to come upon Babylon in one book, all these words that are
61 written concerning Babylon. And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, then thou shalt see, and read all these words: and thou
62 shalt say, O JEHOVAH, thou hast spoken concerning this place, of cutting it off, so that there shall not be in it an inhabitant, either man or beast; but there shall be perpetual desolation.
63 And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, thou shalt bind a stone to it, and shalt cast into the middle of Euphrates: and thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and not rise again, because of the evil which I bring upon her.

THUS FAR THE WORDS OF JEREMIAH.

CHAP. LII.

- 1** **ZEDEKIAH** was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Hami-
- 2** **tal**, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. And he did that which was evil in the sight of **JEHOVAH**, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.
- 3** For it was so because of the anger of **JEHOVAH** against Judah, and Jerusalem, until he had cast them out of his sight. Zedekiah also rebelled against the king of Babylon.
- 4** And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth [day] of the month, that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his forces, against Jerusalem, and encamped against it, and built forts against
- 5** it round about. And the city was besieged until
- 6** the eleventh year of Zedekiah's reign, in the fourth month, the ninth [day] of the month; when the famine was sore in the city, and there
- 7** was no bread for the people of the land. And the city was broken into; and all the men of war fled, and went out of the city by night, by the way of the gate between the two walls, which is by the king's garden; (whilst the Chaldeans were before the city round about;) and they
- 8** went toward the plain. But the forces of Chaldea pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his
- 9** troops were scattered from him. And they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath: and he
- 10** proceeded judicially against him. And the king

of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes ; and he slew also the princes of Judah in
 11 Riblah. And he put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass ; and the king of Babylon carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.

12 And in the fifth month, on the tenth [day] of the month, (it was the nineteenth year of the reign of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon) came Nebuzaradan captain of the guards, one that stood in the presence of the king of Babylon, to
 13 Jerusalem. And he burned the house of JEHOVAH, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every great house, burned he
 14 with fire. And all the army of the Chaldeans, that was with the captain of the guards, brake down all the walls of Jerusalem round about.

15 And some of the poor of the people, and the rest of the people that were left in the city, and the deserters that had gone over to the king of Babylon, even the remains of the multitude, did Nebuzaradan captain of the guards carry
 16 away captive. But some of the poor of the land did Nebuzaradan captain of the guards leave for
 17 vinedressers and for husbandmen. And the pillars of brass that were in the house of JEHOVAH, and the bases, and the brasen sea that was in the house of JEHOVAH, the Chaldeans brake, and
 18 carried all the brass of them to Babylon. The chaldrons also, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the bowls, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass, which they used in ministering,
 19 did they take away. And the basons, and the censers, and the bowls, and the chaldrons, and

the candlesticks, and the spoons, and the cups, whatsoever was of gold, the gold, and whatsoever was of silver, the silver, did the captain of
20 the guards take away. The two pillars, the one sea, and the twelve brasen oxen that were underneath, the bases which king Solomon had made for the house of JEHOVAH, the brass from all
21 these vessels was without weight. For the pillars, eighteen cubits in height was the one pillar, and a line of twelve cubits measured it round; and the thickness of it was four fingers, being hollow.
22 And the chapter upon it was of brass; and the height of the one chapter was five cubits; and there was wreathen work, and pomegranates upon the chapter all round, the whole of brass; and in like manner the other pillar had also pomegranates.
23 And the pomegranates were ninety and six toward every wind: all the pomegranates an hundred upon the wreathen work round
24 about. And the captain of the guards took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door;
25 and out of the city he took an eunuch, who had the charge over the men of war, and seven men of those that were near the king's person, who were found in the city, and the principal scribe of the host, who mustered the people of the land, and threescore men of the people of the land, who were found in the midst of the city;
26 even Nebuzaradan captain of the guards took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. And the king of Babylon smote
27 them, and put them to death in Riblah in the land of Hamath; and carried Judah away captive out of their own land.

28 This is the people, whom Nebuchadrezzar carried away captive in the seventh year, three
29 thousand and twenty three Jews. In the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar, he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred and thirty
30 two persons. In the three and twentieth year of Nebuchadrezzar, Nebuzaradan captain of the guards carried away captive Jews, seven hundred forty and five persons. All the persons were four thousand and six hundred.

31 And it came to pass in the thirty and seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty fifth day of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon in the first year of his reign lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah, and brought him forth out of prison, and spake graciously unto him,
32 and set his seat above the seat of the kings
33 that were with him in Babylon; so that he changed his prison garments, and did eat bread before him continually all the days of his life.
34 And his allowance, a constant allowance, was given him by the king of Babylon's order, at a certain rate every day, until the day of his death, all the days of his life.

THE
LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH.

CHAP. I.

[AND IT CAME TO PASS AFTER THAT ISRAEL HAD BEEN CARRIED AWAY CAPTIVE, AND JERUSALEM WAS BECOME DESOLATE, THAT JEREMIAH SAT WEEPING, AND LAMENTED WITH THIS LAMENTATION OVER JERUSALEM, AND SAID,]

- 1 HOW doth she sit solitary, the city that was
 full of people!
She is become as a widow, that was great among
 the nations!
She that was sovereign over provinces is become
 tributary!
- 2 She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears
 are upon her cheeks;
She hath no comforter from among all her lovers;
All her associates have dealt perfidiously by her,
 they are become her enemies.
- 3 Judah is gone into exile because of affliction,
 and because of great servitude,
She hath dwelt among the nations, she hath found
 no rest;
All her pursuers have overtaken her in the straits.
- 4 The ways of Sion do mourn, because none
 come to the solemn feast;
All her gates are desolate; her priests sigh;
Her virgins are afflicted, and she herself is in
 bitterness.

- 5 Her adversaries are become the head, her enemies have prospered,
Because JEHOVAH hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions;
Her children are gone into captivity before an adversary.
- 6 And from the daughter of Sion all her beauty is departed;
Her princes are become like harts that find no pasture;
And they are gone away without strength before a pursuer.
- 7 Jerusalem hath called to mind in the days of her affliction, and of her abasement,
All her desirable things which were in the days of old;
When her people fell into the hand of an enemy, and she had no helper,
The adversaries saw, they laughed at her continuance.
- 8 Jerusalem hath sinned greatly; therefore hath she been as one set apart for unclean;
All that honoured her have despised her, because they have seen her nakedness;
Even she herself sigheth, and turneth backward.
- 9 [Though] her uncleanness was in her skirts, she thought not of its latter end;
Therefore is she wonderfully brought low; she hath no comforter;
Behold, O JEHOVAH, how an enemy hath aggravated mine affliction.
- 10 An adversary hath spread his hand over all her desirable things;

Surely she hath seen nations enter into her sanctuary,

Concerning whom thou didst command, that they should not enter into thy congregation.

11 All her people sigh ; they seek bread ;
They have given their things of value for food
to sustain life ;

Behold, O JEHOVAH, and consider, how I am become vile !

12 O that among you, all ye that pass by the way,
ye would look and see,

If there be a sorrow like unto my sorrow, which
hath been caused to me,

Whom JEHOVAH hath afflicted in the day of his
fierce anger !

13 From on high hath he sent fire, and hath caused
it to penetrate into my bones ;

He hath spread a net for my feet ; he hath turned
me back ;

He hath made me desolate, languishing all the
day long.

14 My transgressions have been closely watched,
that into his hand they might entangle them-
selves ;

His yoke upon my neck hath caused my strength
to stumble ;

JEHOVAH hath cast me upon my hands, I am un-
able to rise up.

15 JEHOVAH hath trodden down all my valiant
ones in the midst of me ;

He hath called an assembly against me, to crush
my young men ;

JEHOVAH hath trodden the wine-vat in the virgin
daughter of Judah.

- 16 For these things do I weep, mine eye poureth
down water,
Because a comforter is far from me, a supporter
of my life ;
My children are become desolate, because an ene-
my hath prevailed.
- 17 Sion spreadeth forth her hands, she hath no
comforter ;
JEHOVAH hath commanded concerning Jacob,
those that are round about him are his ene-
mies ;
Jerusalem is become as one set apart for unclean
among them.
- 18 Righteous is he, JEHOVAH, for I have rebelled
against his commandment :
Hear, I pray you, all ye peoples, and consider my
sorrow ;
My virgins and my young men are gone into cap-
tivity.
- 19 I called upon my lovers, they have proved false
to me ;
My priests and mine elders in the city have given
up the ghost,
While they sought food for themselves to support
their life.
- 20 Behold, O JEHOVAH, how I am distressed ; my
bowels are troubled ;
My heart within me is turned upside down ; be-
cause I have greatly rebelled,
Abroad a sword destroyeth, at home as it were
death.
- 21 They heard how I sighed, there was none that
comforted me ;

All mine enemies heard of my calamity; they rejoiced that thou hadst wrought it;

Thou hast brought the day, thou hast pronounced, that they shall be even as I.

22 Let all their wickedness come before thee; and deal thou with them,

As thou hast dealt with me for all my transgressions :

For my sighings are many, and my heart is faint.

CHAP. II.

1 HOW doth JEHOVAH cloud with his anger the daughter of Sion !

He hath cast down from heaven to earth the glory of Israel ;

And hath not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.

2 JEHOVAH hath swallowed up without pity all the pleasant places of Jacob ;

He hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah ;

He hath brought down to the ground, he hath profaned the kingdom and its princes.

3 He hath cut off in his fierce anger every horn of Israel ;

He hath turned back his right hand from the face of the enemy ;

And hath burned in Jacob like a flaming fire, which devoureth round about.

4 He hath bent his bow like an enemy, his right hand stood erect like an adversary,

And hath slain every youth, all that were desirable to the eye ;

In the tent of the daughter of Sion hath he poured out his fury like fire.

5 JEHOVAH hath been as an enemy ; he hath swallowed up Israel ;

He hath swallowed up all his palaces, he hath destroyed his strong holds :

And hath multiplied in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.

6 He hath also done violence to the garden of his own hedging ; he hath destroyed his congregation ;

JEHOVAH hath forgotten in Sion the solemn feast and the sabbath ;

And hath treated with scorn in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.

7 JEHOVAH hath rejected his altar, his sanctuary is accursed ;

He hath delivered up into the hand of the enemy the walls of its palaces ;

They have lifted up the voice in the house of JEHOVAH, as on a solemn feast day.

8 JEHOVAH hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Sion ;

He hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from demolishing ;

But he hath made the rampart and wall to mourn, they languished together.

9 Her gates are sunk into the earth ; he hath destroyed and broken her bars ;

Her king and her princes are among the heathen ; there is no law ;

Her prophets also have found no vision from JEHOVAH.

- 10 The elders of the daughter of Sion sit upon
 the ground, they keep silence;
 They have put dust upon their heads, they have
 girded on sackcloth;
 The virgins of Jerusalem hung down their heads
 to the ground.
- 11 Mine eyes are wasted in tears, my bowels are
 troubled;
 My liver is poured out upon the ground because
 of the breach of the daughter of my people,
 While the young child and the suckling are over-
 whelmed in the broad places of the city.
- 12 To their mothers they say, Where is corn and
 wine?
 While they swoon as one wounded in the broad
 places of the city,
 While their soul glideth away in their mother's
 bosom.
- 13 What shall I urge to thee? what shall I liken
 unto thee, O daughter of Jerusalem?
 Wherewith shall I compare thee, so as to comfort
 thee, O virgin daughter of Sion?
 Surely thy breach is wide like the sea; who can
 heal thee?
- 14 Thy prophets have prophesied to thee that
 which is vain and absurd;
 For they have not laid open to thee thine iniqui-
 ty, to bring back thy captivity,
 But they have prophesied to thee burthens of
 vanity, even after they were cast out.
- 15 All that passed by the way have smitten their
 hands together at thee,

They hissed and shook their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, [saying,]

Is this the city that they call Perfect in beauty,
The delight of the whole earth?

16 All thine enemies have opened their mouths against thee;

They hissed and gnashed the teeth; they said,
We have swallowed her up;

Surely this is the day which we looked for, we
have found, we have seen [it].

17 JEHOVAH hath accomplished that which he had
devised, he hath fulfilled his word;

What he constituted in days of old, he hath destroyed, and not spared;

But he hath caused an enemy to rejoice over thee,
he hath exalted the horn of thine adversaries.

18 Their heart cried out, Before JEHOVAH with
fervency, O daughter of Sion,

Let tears run down like a torrent day and night;

Give thyself no rest, let not the daughter of thine
eye stand still.

19 Arise, cry aloud in the night, at the beginning
of the watches;

Pour out thine heart like water before the face of
JEHOVAH;

Lift up thy hands unto him for the life of thy
young children,

That faint for hunger at the head of all the streets,
[saying]

20 Behold, O JEHOVAH, and consider with whom
thou hast dealt thus.

Shall women devour the fruit of the womb, little ones dandled on the hands?

Shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of JEHOVAH?

21 The boy and the old man have lien on the ground in the streets ;
My virgins and my young men are fallen, with the sword hast thou slain [them] ;
In the day of thine anger thou hast killed, thou hast shewed no mercy.

22 Thou hast convoked, as on a set day, such as were strangers to me round about,
So that there was not in the day of JEHOVAH's anger one that escaped and was left ;
Those whom I had fostered and made to grow were all of them mine enemies.

CHAP. III.

1 I AM the man that hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath ;
2 Me hath he led, and caused to go in darkness, and not light ;
3 Against me only hath he sitten, and turned again his hand all the day long.
4 He hath brought to decay my flesh and my skin, he hath broken my bones ;
5 He hath built upon me, and encompassed my head, so that it is weary ;
6 In the midst of darkness hath he caused me to dwell, as those that have been dead of long time.
7 He hath hedged me round about, that I cannot get forth ; he hath made my chain heavy ;

- 8 Yea, when I cry and call aloud, he hath obstructed my prayer ;
- 9 He hath blocked up my way with hewn stone ;
my paths hath he distorted.
- 10 A bear lying in wait hath he been to me, a lion in lurking places :
- 11 He hath turned full upon me, and hath torn me ;
he hath made me desolate ;
- 12 He hath bent his bow, and set me up as it were
a butt for the arrow.
- 13 He hath caused the issue of his quiver to enter
into my reins ;
- 14 I have been a laughing stock to all my people,
their music all the day long ;
- 15 He hath given me my fill of bitters, he hath made
me drunk with wormwood.
- 16 He hath also broken my teeth with grit, he hath
laid me low in ashes ;
- 17 And my soul was removed far from peace, I forgot
prosperity ;
- 18 Then I said, JEHOVAH hath caused my strength and
my hope to fail.
- 19 The remembrance of mine affliction and mine
abasement is wormwood and gall ;
- 20 My soul cannot but remember, and sinketh within me.
- 21 This I revolve in my heart, therefore will I have
hope ;
- 22 The mercies of JEHOVAH, that they are not exhausted,
that they fail not ;

- 23 New are his compassions every morning ; great is thy faithfulness ;
- 24 My portion is JEHOVAH, saith my soul, therefore will I hope in him.
- 25 JEHOVAH is gracious unto him that waiteth for him, to the soul that seeketh him ;
- 26 He is gracious, therefore let him wait with silent hope for the salvation of JEHOVAH ;
- 27 He is gracious unto a man, when he beareth the yoke in his youth.
- 28 Let him sit alone and be silent, when it is laid upon him ;
- 29 Let him lay his mouth in the dust, if peradventure there be hope ;
- 30 Let him present his cheek to the smiter, let him be filled full with reproach.
- 31 For JEHOVAH will not cast off for ever ;
- 32 But though he afflict, he will also pity according to the multitude of his mercies ;
- 33 For he taketh no satisfaction in afflicting or grieving the sons of men.
- 34 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the land,
- 35 To turn aside the judgment of a man before the face of a superior,
- 36 To subvert a man in his cause, JEHOVAH seeth not.
- 37 Who is he that hath spoken, and it hath come to pass, when JEHOVAH commanded not ?
- 38 Doth not good and evil proceed at the command of the most High ?

- 39 Wherefore should a living man complain, a man on account of his suffering for sin ?
- 40 Let us search and examine our ways, and let us return unto JEHOVAH ;
- 41 Let us lift up our hearts with [our] hands unto God in the heavens, [saying]
- 42 We have transgressed and rebelled ; thou hast not pardoned ;
- 43 Thou hast fenced in with anger, and chased us ; thou hast killed, thou hast not spared ;
- 44 Thou hast fenced with a cloud round about thee, that prayer may not pass through ;
- 45 An offscouring and refuse hast thou made us in the midst of the peoples.
- 46 All our enemies have opened their mouths against us ;
- 47 The terror and the pit have been upon us, desolation and destruction.
- 48 Mine eye poureth down streams of water. because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.
- 49 Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, so that it hath no intervals of rest,
- 50 Until JEHOVAH look down, and regard from heaven :
- 51 Mine eye worketh trouble to my soul because of all the daughters of my city.
- 52 They that are mine enemies without cause hunted me down like a bird ;
- 53 They cut off my life in the pit, they lifted a stone upon me ;

- 54 Waters flowed over my head ; I said, I am cut off :
- 55 I called upon thy name, O JEHOVAH, out of the dungeon beneath ;
- 56 Thou heardest my voice, [which said,] Hide not thine ear from my relief at my cry ;
- 57 Thou drewest near in the day I called upon thee, thou saidst, Fear not.
- 58 Thou didst plead, O JEHOVAH, the causes of my soul, thou redeemedst my life.
- 59 Thou hast seen, O JEHOVAH, the injustice done me ; assert thou my right :
- 60 Thou hast seen all their revenge, all their devices against me.
- 61 Thou hast heard their reproach, O JEHOVAH, all their devices against me,
- 62 The lips of mine adversaries, and their muttering against me all the day long.
- 63 Behold their sitting down and their rising up, I am their music.
- 64 Thou wilt render unto them a recompence, O JEHOVAH, according to the work of their hands ;
- 65 Thou wilt give with a hearty accordance thy curse unto them ;
- 66 Thou wilt pursue with anger, and destroy them from under the heavens of JEHOVAH.

CHAP. IV.

- 1 **HOW** is the gold tarnished! the best massy gold
 changed!
 The hallowed stones scattered about at the top of
 every street!
- 2 The precious sons of Sion, of worth equal to the
 purest gold,
 How are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the
 manufacture of the potter!
- 3 The very dragons have drawn out the breast,
 they have suckled their young ones:
 The daughter of my people in cruelty [is] like
 the ostriches in the desert.
- 4 The tongue of the sucking child clave to the
 roof of his mouth for thirst;
 The young children asked bread, there was none
 that brake unto them.
- 5 Those that fed upon dainties are forlorn in the
 streets,
 Those that were brought up upon scarlet, have
 embraced dunghills.
- 6 The punishment also of the daughter of my peo-
 ple hath been greater than the punishment of
 Sodom;
 Which was overthrown as it were in an instant,
 nor were hands weakened in her,
- 7 Her nobles were purer than snow, they were
 whiter than milk,

They were ruddier on the bone than rubies, their veining was the sapphires :

8 Their appearance is become duskier than the dawn, they are not distinguished in the streets ;

Their skin is strait bound upon their bones, it is become dry like a stick.

9 Happier are the slain by the sword than the slain by famine,

In that those, being thrust through, pass away before the fruits of the field.

10 The hands of tenderhearted women have boiled their own children ;

They became food for them in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

11 JEHOVAH hath fully vented his fury, he hath poured out the fierceness of his anger,
And hath kindled a fire in Sion, so that it hath consumed the foundations thereof.

12 The kings of the earth believed not, nor all the inhabitants of the world,
That the adversary would enter, and the enemy, within the gates of Jerusalem,

13 Because of the sins of her prophets, the iniquities of her priests,
Who shed in the midst of her the blood of the righteous.

14 They ran frantic through the streets, they were stained with blood ;
Such as they could not overpower, they touched their clothes :

- 15 Begone, unclean, men cried unto them, begone,
begone, touch not ;
Because they were contentious, even when they
were fugitives, men said among the nations,
They shall sojourn no more ;
- 16 The countenance of JEHOVAH their portion will
no more look upon them ;
They respected not the persons of priests, they
shewed no favour to elders.
- 17 While yet we existed, our eyes failed [with look-
ing] for our help ;
In vain on our watch-tower have we watched for
a nation that cannot save.
- 18 They hunted our steps, that we could not pass
along our streets ; our end drew near ;
Our days are accomplished, yea, our end is come.
- 19 Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles of hea-
ven :
Upon the mountains they chased us, in the wil-
derness they lay in ambush for us.
- 20 The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of JEHO-
VAH, was taken in their toils,
Under whose shadow we said we should live
among the nations.
- 21 Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, 'that
dwellest in the land of Uz ;
Unto thee also shall the cup pass over ; thou
shalt be intoxicated, and shalt expose thy
nakedness.

- 22 Thy punishment is at an end, O daughter of Sion, it shall not cause thee any more to go into captivity ;
Thy punishment cometh on, O daughter of Edom, about to go into captivity because of thy sins.

CHAP. V.

- 1 REMEMBER, O JEHOVAH, what hath befallen us !
Look down and see our reproach.
- 2 Our inheritance is transferred to strangers,
Our houses to foreigners.
- 3 We are become orphans, and without father,
Our mothers as widows.
- 4 Our waters have we drunken for money,
Our wood cometh for a price.
- 5 With the yoke of our necks are we continually burthened,
We labour, and no rest is allowed us.
- 6 O Egypt, we have submitted ourselves,
O Assyria, in order to have our fill of bread.
- 7 Our fathers have sinned, but they are no more ;
And we have undergone the punishment of their iniquities.
- 8 Servants have had dominion over us,
There is none that delivereth out of their hand.

- 9 At the hazard of our lives we get our bread,
Because of the sword of the wilderness.
- 10 Our skins are parched like an oven,
By means of the stormy blasts of hunger.
- 11 Matrons in Sion have they ravished,
Virgins in the cities of Judah.
- 12 Princes were hanged up by their hand,
The persons of elders were not honoured.
- 13 Young men were made to grind at the mill,
And boys fell under [burdens of] wood.
- 14 Elders have ceased from the gate,
Young men from their music.
- 15 The mirth of our heart is ceased,
Our dance is turned into mourning.
- 16 The crown of our head is fallen,
Wo unto us! because we have sinned.
- 17 Because of this our heart is become faint,
Because of these things our eyes are dim :
- 18 Because of mount Sion, which is desolate,
Foxes have walked in it.
- 19 But thou, O JEHOVAH, shalt be established forever,
Thy throne from generation to generation.
- 20 Wherefore wilt thou totally forget us?
[Wherefore] wilt thou abandon us for a length of
days?

21 Turn thou us unto thee, O JEHOVAH, so shall we
return ;

Renew our days as of old,

22 For surely thou hast cast us off altogether ;
Thou hast been wroth with us exceedingly,

A new Arrangement of the Chapters in Jeremiah having been adopted, from Chap. XX. to Chap. XLVI. they are here to be found in the following order.

CHAP. XX.

XXII.
XXIII.
XXV.
XXVI.
XXXV.
XXXVI.
XLV.
XXIV.
XXIX.
XXX.
XXXI.
XXVII.
XXVIII.

CHAP. XXI.

XXXIV.
XXXVII.
XXXII.
XXXIII.
XXXVIII.
XXXIX. 15—18.
XXXIX. 1—14.
XL.
XLI.
XLII.
XLIII.
XLIV.
XLVI. &c.

NOTES

ON

JEREMIAH.

THE prophet Jeremiah was of the sacerdotal race, being, as he records himself, one of the priests that dwelt at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, a city appropriated out of that tribe to the use of the priests the sons of Aaron (Josh. xxi. 18.) and situate, as we learn from Jerome, about three miles north of Jerusalem. Some have supposed his father to have been that Hilkiah the high priest, by whom the book of the law was found in the temple in the reign of Josiah; but for this there is no better ground than his having borne the same name, which was no uncommon one among the Jews; whereas had he been in reality the high priest, he would doubtless have been mentioned by that distinguishing title, and not put upon a level with priests of an ordinary and inferior class. Jeremiah appears to have been very young, when he was called to the exercise of the prophetic office, from which he modestly endeavoured to excuse himself, by pleading his youth and incapacity; but being overruled by the divine authority, he set himself to discharge the duties of his function with unremitted diligence and fidelity during a period of at least 42 years, reckoned from the 13th year of Josiah's reign. In the course of his ministry he met with great difficulties and opposition from his countrymen of all degrees, whose persecution and ill usage sometimes wrought so far upon his mind, as to draw from him expressions in the bitterness of his soul, which many have thought hard to reconcile with his religious principles; but which, when duly weighed, may be found to demand our pity rather than censure. He was in truth a man of unblemished piety and conscientious integrity; a warm lover of his country, whose miseries he pathetically deplores; and so affectionately attached to his countrymen, notwithstanding their injurious treatment of him, that he chose rather to abide with them, and undergo all hardships in their company, than separately to enjoy a state of ease and plenty, which the favour of the king of Babylon would have secured to him. At length, after the destruction of Jerusalem, having followed the remnant of the Jews into Egypt,

whither they had resolved to retire, though contrary to his advice, upon the murder of Gedaliah, whom the Chaldeans had left governor in Judea, he there continued warmly to remonstrate against their idolatrous practices, foretelling the consequences that would inevitably follow. But his freedom and zeal are said to have cost him his life ; for the Jews at Tahpanhes, as tradition goes, took such offence thereat, that they stoned him to death, which account of the manner of his exit, though not absolutely certain, is at least very likely to be true, considering the temper and disposition of the parties concerned. Their wickedness, however, did not long pass without its reward ; for in a few years after, they were miserably destroyed by the Babylonian armies which invaded Egypt, according to the prophet's prediction, chap. xliv. 27, 28.

THE idolatrous apostasy, and other criminal enormities of the people of Judah, and the severe judgments which God was prepared to inflict upon them, but not without a distant prospect of future restoration and deliverance, are the principal subject matters of the following prophecies ; excepting only the 45th Chapter, which relates personally to Baruch ; and the six succeeding chapters, which respect the fortunes of some particular heathen nations. It is observable however, that though many of these prophecies have their particular dates annexed to them, and others may be tolerably well guessed at from certain internal marks and circumstances, there appears a strange disorder in the arrangement, not easy to be accounted for on any principle of regular design. There is indeed a variation between the Hebrew copies and those of the LXX. Version, in the arrangement of those particular prophecies concerning the heathen nations ; which in the Hebrew are disposed all together, and as I conceive in their proper order of time with respect to each other, at the end of the book, intentionally, as it should seem, not to interrupt the course of Jewish history ; whilst the authors of the LXX. have inserted them, with some difference of order among themselves, though perhaps no very material one, after the 13th verse of the 25th chapter. But the disorder complained of lies not here, it is common to both the Hebrew and Greek arrangements, and consists in the preposterous jumbling together of the prophecies of the reigns of Jehoiakim and Zedekiah, in the seventeen chapters which follow the 20th according to the Hebrew copies ; so that without any apparent reason, many of the latter reign precede those of the former, and in the same reign, the last delivered are put first, and the first last. As such an unnatural disposition could not have been the result of judgment, nor scarcely of inattention in the compiler of these prophecies, it follows that the original order has most probably by some accident or other been disturbed. To restore which, as it may be of some use to the reader, I shall venture to transpose the chapters, where it appears needful, without altering the numerals, and shall assign the motives of every such transposition in the particular place where it is made.

THE following historical sketch of the times in which Jeremiah lived, is given with a view to throw light upon his prophecies in general, and

may help to explain sundry circumstances and allusions that are found therein.

In the reign of Manasseh every species of impiety and moral corruption had been carried to the highest pitch under the encouragement of royal example. And so thoroughly tainted were the minds of men by this corrupt influence, as to baffle all the endeavours of the good Josiah to bring about a reformation. This well disposed prince, having in the 18th year of his reign accidentally met with the book of the law, was stricken with horror at the danger, to which he found himself and his kingdom exposed by the violations of it. He therefore immediately set about removing all the abominations that were in the land, and engaged his subjects to join with him in a solemn covenant to be more dutifully observant of the divine commands for the time to come. But though the king's heart was right, and his zeal fervent and sincere, it was all hypocrisy and dissimulation on the part of the people; their hearts were incorrigibly turned the wrong way; and God, who saw clearly the real bent of their dispositions, was not to be diverted from his designs of vengeance. He began with depriving them by a sudden stroke of their excellent prince, under whose government they had enjoyed much happiness and tranquillity, of which they were altogether unworthy. He was slain in a battle with Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt, whom Josiah had gone out to oppose on his march against the Babylonian dominions, being himself in alliance with the king of Babylon; and his death, however fatal to his kingdom, was as to his own particular a merciful disposition of providence, that his eyes might not see all the evil that was coming upon his land.—The twelve first Chapters of this book seem to contain all the prophecies delivered in this reign.

Josiah being dead, his sons who succeeded him were not of a character to impede or delay the execution of God's judgments. It is said in general of them all, that they did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah. The first that mounted the throne was Shallum, or Jehoahaz, the second son, by designation of the people. But his elevation was not of a long continuance. Pharaoh Necho having defeated the Babylonian forces, and taking Carchemish, on his return deposed Jehoahaz, after a reign of three months, and putting him in chains, carried him to Egypt, from whence he never returned.—In this short reign Jeremiah does not appear to have had any revelation.

Pharaoh Necho made use of his victory to reduce all Syria under his subjection; and having imposed a fine upon the kingdom of Judah of one hundred talents of silver and one talent of gold, he received the money from Jehoiakim, the eldest son of Josiah, whom he appointed king in his brother's stead. Jehoiakim was one of the worst and wickedest of all the kings of Judah; a man totally destitute of all regard for religion, and unjust, rapacious, cruel, and tyrannical in his government. In the beginning of his reign he put Urijah a prophet of God to death, for having prophesied, as was his duty to do, of the impending calamities of Judah and Jerusalem. And having either built for himself a new palace, or enlarged the old one that belonged to the kings of Ju-

dah, by a strain of authority not less mean than wicked, he withheld from the workmen the wages they had earned in building it. In short he set no bounds to his evil inclinations and passions; and his people, freed from the wholesome discipline which had restrained them in his father's time, were not behindhand with him in giving way to every sort of licentious extravagance. Three years he reigned without molestation or disturbance from abroad. But towards the latter end of his third year Nebuchadnezzar being associated in the government by his father Nabopolassar king of Babylon, was sent into Syria to recover the dismembered provinces of the Babylonish empire. In the fourth year of Jehoiakim he beat the Egyptian army at the river Euphrates, retook Carchemish, and having subdued all the intermediate country, he appeared before Jerusalem, of which he soon made himself master. Jehoiakim was at first loaded with chains, with an intention of sending him to Babylon *. He was however released upon his submission, and again suffered to reign on taking an oath to be a true servant of the king of Babylon. But numbers of his people were sent captives to Babylon, together with several children of the blood royal, and of the first families of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar proposed to breed up in his own court, in order to employ them afterwards in the affairs of his empire. At the same time many of the sacred vessels were taken away, and deposited in the temple of Belus at Babylon; so that from this date the desolation of Judah may fairly be reckoned to have had its beginning.

After the king of Babylon's departure Jehoiakim continued to pay him homage and tribute for three years. In the mean time both he and his people persisted in their evil courses, undismayed by the mischiefs which had already befallen them, and making light of the threatenings, which God by the ministry of his prophets repeatedly denounced against them. At length Jehoiakim refused to pay any longer the tribute assigned him, and broke out into open revolt. To chastise him, the king of Babylon, not being at leisure to come in person, directed his vassals of the neighbouring provinces, the Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites, to join with the Chaldean troops that were on the frontiers, and to ravage the land of Judah. They did so for three years together, and carried off abundance of people from the open country, who were sent to Babylon. Jehoiakim, in some attempt, as it should seem, made by him to check these depredations, was himself slain without the gates of Jerusalem; and his dead body having been dragged along the ground with the greatest ignominy, was suffered to remain without burial in the open fields.—The prophecies of this reign are continued on from the 13th to the 20th Chapter inclusively, to which we must add the 22d, 23d, 25th, 26th, 35th and 36th Chapters, together with the 45th, 46th, 47th, and most probably the 48th, and as far as to ver. 34. of the 49th Chapter.

Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, a youth of 18 years old, succeeded his father in the throne, and followed his evil example, as far as the

* Our Author found himself mistaken here, and rectifies it in his note on Chap. xxii. 19, Ed.

shortness of his reign would admit. From the beginning of it Jerusalem was closely blocked up by the Babylonian generals. At the end of three months Nebuchadnezzar joined his army in person, and upon his arrival Jeconiah surrendered himself and his city at discretion. He was transported directly to Babylon with his mother, his family, and friends, and with them all the inhabitants of the land of any note or account. The treasures also of the temple, and of the king's house, and all the golden vessels which Solomon had provided for the temple service, were at this time carried away.—We read of no prophecy that Jeremiah actually delivered in this king's reign; but the fate of Jeconiah, his being carried into captivity, and continuing an exile till the time of his death, was early foretold in his father's reign, as may be particularly seen in the 22d Chapter.

The last king of Judah was Zedekiah, the youngest son of Josiah, whom Nebuchadnezzar made king, and exacted from him a solemn oath of allegiance and fidelity. He was not perhaps quite so bad a man as his brother Jehoiakim, but his reign was a wicked one, and completed the misfortunes of his country. His subjects seem to have but little respected him, whilst they considered him in no other light than as the lieutenant or viceroy of the king of Babylon, whose sovereignty they detested, and were continually urging him to throw off the yoke. Nor had he been long in possession of the kingdom, before he received Ambassadors from the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyrus, and Sidon, soliciting him to join in a confederacy against the Babylonish power. But he was wise enough at this time to hearken to the prophet Jeremiah's advice, and to reject their propositions; and for some years continued to send regularly his presents and ambassadors to Babylon in token of his obedience. But the iniquities of his people were now ripe for punishment, and their idolatries, as the prophet Ezekiel describes them, (Chap. viii.) were become so enormously profligate, that the stroke of vengeance could no longer be suspended. Zedekiah therefore was at last prevailed on by evil counsel, and the promise of assistance from Egypt, to break his oath, and renounce his allegiance; by which he drew upon himself the arms of the king of Babylon, who invaded Judah, took most of its cities, and invested Jerusalem. The Egyptians made a shew of coming to his relief; and the Chaldean army, informed of their approach, broke off the siege, and advanced to meet them; having first sent off the captives that were in their camp. This produced a signal instance of the double dealing of the Jews. For in the first moments of terror they had affected to return to God, and in compliance with his law had proclaimed the year of release to their Hebrew bondservants, and let them go free. But on the retreat of the Chaldeans, when they believed the danger was over, and not likely to return, they repented of their good deed, and compelled those whom they had discharged to return to their former servitude. The Egyptians however durst not abide the encounter of the enemy, but faced about, and returned to their own land, leaving the people of Judah exposed to the implacable resentment of the king of Babylon. The siege was immediately renewed with vigour, and the city taken, according to

the circumstantial account which is given of it in the 52d Chapter.— The prophecies which were delivered in the reign of Zedekiah, are contained in the 21st and 24th Chapters, the 27th to the 34th, and the 37th to the 39th inclusively, together with the six last verses of Chap. 49. and the 50th and 51st Chapters concerning the fall of Babylon.

The subsequent transactions of the murder of Gedaliah, of the retreat of the Jews that remained into Egypt, and of their ill behaviour there, are so particularly related Ch. xl.—xliv. that it were needless here to repeat them. But it may be of use to observe, that in the 2d year after the taking of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Tyre; and in the course of that siege, which lasted 13 years, he sent part of his forces against the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Philistines, and other neighbouring nations, to desolate and lay waste the country, as the prophets of God had foretold. At the same time Nebuzaradan the Babylonish general again entered the land of Judah, and carried off a few miserable gleanings of inhabitants that were found there. In the next year after the taking of Tyre the king of Babylon invaded Egypt, which he plundered and ravaged from one end to the other; and on this occasion all the Jews that had fled into that kingdom for refuge, were almost entirely cut off, or made prisoners. Such was the state of affairs in general, till in the course of time, and precisely at the period which had been foretold, the Babylonian monarchy was itself overturned by the prevailing power of the Medes and Persians; and the Jewish nation once more returned to their own land.

It may be expected, that something should be said concerning the discriminating style and genius of this prophet's writing. But instead of offering an opinion of my own, which in point of judgment may be questionable, the public in general will perhaps be better gratified, if I present them with the translation of a Character already drawn by a very superior hand, to which I doubt not every reader of discernment will heartily subscribe. "Jeremiah," says this admirable Critic, "is
 " by no means wanting either in elegance or sublimity, although, generally speaking, inferior to Isaiah in both. Jerome has objected to
 " him a certain rusticity in his diction, of which I must confess I do
 " not discover the smallest trace. His thoughts indeed are somewhat
 " less elevated, and he is commonly more large and diffuse in his sentences; but the reason of this may be, that he is mostly taken up
 " with the gentler passions of grief and pity, for the expression of which
 " he has a peculiar talent. This is most evident in the Lamentations,
 " where those passions altogether predominate; but it is often visible
 " also in his Prophecies, in the former part of the book more especially,
 " which is principally poetical; the middle are for the most part historical; but the last part, consisting of six Chapters, is entirely poetical; and contains several oracles distinctly marked, in which this
 " Prophet falls very little short of the lofty style of Isaiah. But of the
 " whole book of Jeremiah it is hardly the one half which I look upon
 " as poetical." Lowth de sacra Poesi Hebræorum, Prælec. xxi.

CHAP. I.

1. The words of Jeremiah—] This Chapter forms an entire Section by itself. It contains the Call of Jeremiah, and the Commission given him by God ; the purport of which is explained by two symbolical images. God encourages him to proceed in the execution of it by assuring him of protection and support.

2. I knew thee—] That is, “ I had thee in my view,” or “ approved thee as a fit and proper object ;” in the same sense as it is said, Acts xv. 18. “ Known unto God are all his works from the foundation of the world ;” he contemplated the plan of them, and approved it in his mind, before he created and brought them into being. Agreeably to this premeditated purpose concerning him, God proceeded at an early period to set him apart or separate him from the rest of mankind to be employed in that peculiar office, to which now in the fulness of time he appointed him. Exactly in this manner St Paul says of himself, Gal. i. 15, 16. that God separated him from his mother’s womb, and afterwards called him to preach the gospel of his Son unto the Gentiles.

10.—and to build] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. read וילבנות : and so likewise four MSS, one of which is the ancient Bodleian, No. 1*.

11.—a rod of an almond tree] The Almond tree is one of the first trees that blossom in the spring ; and from that circumstance is supposed to have received its name קש, as being intent and as it were on the watch to seize the first opportunity ; which is the proper sense of the Hebrew verb קש. So that here is at once an allusion to the property of the Almond tree, and in the original a *Paranomasia* ; which makes it more striking there, than it can be in a translation.

13.—its face turned from the north] It is very manifest that צפונה must signify “ from the north,” or “ from the face of the north,” as it is expressed in the margin of our Bible, and not, “ towards the north,” as it is improperly rendered in the Text. From the next verse it appears, that the evil was to come from the north ; and therefore the steam, which was designed for an emblem of that evil, must have issued from that quarter too. The pot denoted the empire of the Babylonians and Chaldeans, lying to the north of Judea, and pouring forth its multitudes like a thick vapour to overspread the land.

14.—shall pour forth] תפתח. Literally, “ shall be opened ;” that is, shall pass freely out, as having the door open.

15.—shall set every one his throne—] To set up a throne in or over any place denotes taking full possession of it, and exercising authority and dominion there. See ch. xlii. 10. xlix. 38.

16. And I will pronounce my judgments against them] Or “ And

* N. B. When any particular MS. or Edition is referred to, it will be distinguished by its Number in Dr Kennicott’s Catalogue.

“ I will discourse my judgments with them :” וידברתי משפטי אותם ; a phrase that implies all the several steps of a judicial process, in which the rules of law are applied and brought home to the particular case in hand. Thus it is said of Zedekiah, Ch. xxxix. 5. lii. 9. that the king of Babylon “discoursed judgments with him,” וידבר אתו משפטים ; that is, he had him arraigned, tried, convicted, and condemned according to the laws of the empire for the high treason which he had committed. Compare also Ch. iv. 12. xii. 1. משפט may be the singular or plural noun with the affix י, “ my rule” or “ my rules of judgment,” meaning that system of just laws, which God had established for the regulation of his people’s conduct, and guarded by suitable sanctions and penalties. In 2 Kings xxv. 6. we read משפט in the singular number ; in the places above cited, משפטים in the plural. The LXX. render, *Και λαλήσω προς αυτους μετα κρισιως* ; but with this variation in MS. Pachom. *Και λαλήσω μετα κρισιως με προς αυτους*.

17.—lest I should suffer thee to be crushed before them.] There is no threat implied here, as the generality of Commentators are inclined to suppose. The particle *ל* points out the danger which might possibly alarm the prophet’s fears, that of being overborne by the opposition he was likely to meet with. He therefore receives special assurances of God’s immediate protection and support. *אחזק* is in the Conjug. *Hiphil*, which indeed commonly imports *to make or cause to be broken or dismayed*. But God is often said to *make or cause to be done*, what he only *permits and suffers*.

18.—and like a wall—] The LXX. Syr. Chald. Vulg. all render in the singular number, “a wall.” And fifty two MSS. with twelve printed Editions read either *לחמה* or *לחומה*.

CHAP. II.

THAT some of the following Prophecies are in metre is as obvious, as that others are not ; there being evidently to be discerned in the one, and not in the other, those characteristic marks of metrical composition, more especially the corresponding or parallel lines or verses, and the relation of the sentences and parts of sentences to each other, which Bp. Lowth has described and treated of at large in his preliminary Dissertation on Isaiah. It has been already noticed (pag. 226.) that the same judicious Critic has pronounced nearly one half of the book of Jeremiah to be poetical. And as the same reasons will hold good for attending to this peculiar form of construction in all parts of the sacred writings where it occurs, I have endeavoured to point it out, after the Bishop’s example, to the Reader’s notice, by distributing the lines according to their due measure, as far as my judgment would carry me ; in which I hope to be serviceable on the whole, though I may sometimes, and perhaps not seldom, be mistaken.

The prophecy begun in this Chapter is continued to the end of the 5th verse of the next Chapter. In it God professeth to retain the same kindness and favourable disposition towards Israel, which he had mani-

fested in their earlier days. He expostulateth with them on their ungrateful returns for his past goodness, and sheweth that it was not want of affection in him, but their own extreme and unparalleled wickedness and disloyalty, which had already subjected, and would still subject them to calamities and misery. He concludes with a pathetic address, exhorting them to return to him, with an implied promise of acceptance: and laments the necessity he was under, through their continued obstinacy, of giving them further marks of his displeasure.—This prophecy may not improbably have been delivered soon after the beginning of the Prophet's mission.

2. I have called to mind in thy behalf the kindness, &c.] Our English version now in use, and most of the ancient Interpreters, seem to have considered **חַסְדִּי נִעֻרִיךְ אֲחֻבַּת כְּלֻלְתִּיךְ** as the regard and affection which the Israelites bore to God in the infancy of their constitution, when they first became his covenanted people, and followed his guidance in the wilderness of Sinai. But that they had very little merit of this kind to boast of, is evident from their history at this period, as recorded by Moses, and alluded to by other sacred writers. See Deut. ix. 5, &c. Ps. lxxviii. 8, &c. Ezek. xx. 5—26. The kindness was all shewn on the part of God, and was perfectly gratuitous, as the word **חַסְדִּי** properly signifies; and it was his affection for them, and not theirs for him, that led him to *espouse* them, that is, to engage in a special contract with them to be their God, and to take them for his peculiar people. And thus the words are explained in the margin of our ancient English Bible (1583. Folio) to be “that grace and favour, which I shewed thee from the beginning, when I did first choose thee to be my people, and married thee to myself.” And by God's remembering for them, or calling to mind in their behalf, this lovingkindness and affection, is implied, that he still continued to retain the same cordial regard for them, whenever they were disposed to return to him, and to avail themselves of his good will. So it is said, Ps. cvi. 45. **לָחַם בְּרִיתוֹ** **זָכוֹר**, “And he remembered for them his covenant.” See also Isai. lxiii. 11. Ezek xvi. 60.

3. Israel is a hallowed thing unto JEHOVAH] These words I consider as spoken in those ancient times, when God out of his special favour to Israel appropriated them unto himself, as the first fruits of mankind, and forbade any to molest them, under pain of being considered and treated as sacrilegious invaders of sacred property. And therefore **נֵאמַר יְהוָה** is rendered, “said JEHOVAH,” and not “saith.”

Ibid.—his increase] Fourteen MSS. and two Editions read **רִבְוֹמָתוֹ** for **רִבְוֹמָתוֹ** in the text, and seven MSS. give it as a marginal *Keri*: but **ו** is in use for the masculine affix as well as **ו**, and seems often to be purposely introduced for the sake of distinguishing between two masculine pronouns in the same period, which refer to different antecedents; as in the present instance the **ו** refers to **יְהוָה**, and the **ו** in **יִשְׂרָאֵל** to **אֲבֹלִי**.

6. Through a land of wide waste, and a pit] By the words **עֲרֵבָה** **וְשׁוֹחַה בְּאֶרֶץ** it was undoubtedly meant to characterize the wilderness

by some of its most unfavourable circumstances in point of nature and appearance. But to call it simply, "a land of deserts," seems not to help forward our idea of it. The proper sense of ערבוּר seems to be derived from the verb עָרַב, *to mix or mingle together*; and to be that of an extensive plain or open country, in which no one had an exclusive right of property, but the pasturage and sheepwalks were all promiscuous, and in common. Hence I apprehend the whole country of *Arabia* to have been denominated, being mostly occupied in that manner. Such also I suppose to be *the plains* mentioned in Scripture, and called from their adjacency, *the plains of Mamre, of Moab, of Jordan, of Jericho, &c.* as being unappropriated, and of course uncultivated lands in the neighbourhood of those places. Accordingly to such land we usually give the name of *the waste*. Now the wilderness, through which the Israelites passed in their way out of Egypt, was to a vast extent *a land of waste* of this kind, totally unoccupied and unfit for the purpose of cultivation, and therefore absolutely incapable of subsisting without a miracle such a numerous people as for many years took up their abode in it. To this is added שְׁוֹמֵר, which our Translators have rendered, "and of pits," but why they supposed the wilderness to be called *a land of pits* I do not well conceive. The LXX. have rendered the whole passage in so lax a manner, that nothing can be collected from thence. The Chald. and Syr. seem to have read שְׁוֹמֵר, *desolation*, or to have considered whatever word they found as having that import. But if שְׁוֹמֵר be the true reading, as all the collated MSS. agree in representing it, it undoubtedly signifies *a pit*, and may perhaps allude to the inclosure of the wilderness within craggy and high mountains, in respect of which Pharaoh is introduced as saying of the Israelites, "The wilderness hath shut them in," or closed upon them, *Exod. xiv. 3.* So that if we render the words in question "through a land of wide waste and a pit," we may understand by it a country incapable of providing for the people's subsistence from being *a wide uncultivated waste*; but into which when they were once entered, they were fairly shut up as in *a pit*, where they and their families must have inevitably perished, if they had not had the assistance of providence to support them by the way, and finally to extricate them out of it.

Ibid.—and the shadow of death] This image was undoubtedly borrowed from those dusky caverns and holes among the rocks, which the Jews ordinarily chose for their burying places: where Death seemed to hover continually, casting over them his broad shadow. Sometimes indeed I believe nothing more is intended by it, than to denote a dreariness and gloom like that which reigns in those dismal mansions. But in other places it respects the perils and dangers of the situation. Thus, *Ps. xxiii. 4.* "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." And again, *Ps. xliv. 19.* But over and above the foregoing allusions, *the land of the shadow of death* here seems to intend *the grave* itself, which the wilderness actually proved to all the individuals of the children of Israel that entered into it, Caleb and Joshua only excepted, whose lives were preserved by a special providence.

7.—a land of fruitful field] The article shews זכרמל to be designed for an appellative ; and *a land of fruitful field* is well contrasted with *a land of waste*.

9.—I will yet plead with you] That is, I will maintain by arguments the equity of my proceedings, and the injustice of yours.

10.—the countries of Chittim] By איים it is certain that the Hebrews did not mean the same as we do by *islands*, that is, lands encompassed with water all around ; and therefore we ought not so to render this Hebrew word. It sometimes signifies only *a country* or *region*, as Isai. xx. 6. but usually perhaps distant ones, and such as had a line of sea coast. See Ch. xlvii. 4. Bochart, Phaleg. lib. iii. cap. 5. has made it appear with much probability, that the countries peopled by Chittim, the grandson of Japhet, are Italy and the adjacent provinces of Europe, which lie along the Mediterranean sea. And as these were to the west of Judea, and Kedar in Arabia to the east, the plain purport of this passage is, “ Look about you to the west and to the east.”

11. Hath a nation changed Gods?] Fifty five MSS. and ten Editions for חזקמיר read חזקמיר. One MS. for אלחיו reads אלחיו, “ its Gods.” The LXX. Syr. and Vul. all agree in joining the affix ; but the two former express the subject and verb in the plural number, as if they had read, חזקמירו גוים אלחיותם. But the present reading is unexceptionable.

12. The heavens are astonished, &c.] The verbs here may be either the 3d person plural of the preter tense, or the 2d person plural of the imperative. The LXX. prefer the former.

13.—broken cisterns] בארות נשברות.—The text here appears to be corrupt. The LXX. and Chald. omit בארת, and, I should suppose, read בארות נשברות, which would be right : for בארות, a feminine noun, requires the adjective or participle of the same gender. Three MSS. omit בארת ; one substitutes ברית instead of it ; and for נשברות two MSS. read נשברות, an easy corruption of נשברות.

14. Or if a child of the household] One MS. reads ואם with the conjunction. ילד בית answers to the Latin word *filiusfamilias*, and stands opposed to *a slave*. The same distinction is made Gal. iv. 7. and an inference drawn from it in a similar manner. “ Wherefore thou art no more a servant, (a slave) but a son ; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” As Christians now, so the Israelites heretofore were the children of God's household ; and if so, they seemed entitled to his peculiar care and protection.

15. Against him lions shall roar] Lions in the figurative style of prophecy denote powerful princes and conquerors ; See Ch. i. 17. Such were Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt, and Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon ; whose successive hostilities against the kingdom of Judah seem here to be foretold. Fifty six MSS. and six Editions read כפירים at large.

Ibid.—are burned—] Twenty MSS. and two Editions confirm the reading of the Masora, נצתו for נצתו. Three MSS. read נחצו.

“are broken down;” and this accords with the word used by the LXX. *κατασφραγισαυ*. See Ch. iv. 26. It may be observed, that the verbs *נחנך*, *וישיתך*, and *נצחך*, or *נחצך*, express the time past: but the context shews that they must be understood of the future. Nor is it unusual for the prophets thus to speak of events foreseen by them, as if they had them already accomplished in their view.

16. The sons also of Noph, &c.] This no doubt alludes to the severe blow which the nation received in a capital part, when the good king Josiah was defeated by the Egyptians, and slain in battle; or when afterwards, upon the deposition of Jehoahaz, the glory of the monarchy was debased, by its being changed into a tributary and dependent kingdom, 2 Kings xxiii. 33, 34. Noph and Taphanhes were two principal cities of Egypt, otherwise called *Memphis* and *Daphnæ Pelusiaca*. Forty one MSS. and six Editions read *ותחזקתם* according to the Masoretic emendation for *ותחזקתם*.

18. To drink the waters of Sihor] At ver 13. it is said, that the people had “forsaken JEHOVAH, a fountain of living waters;” by a like figure they are here reproved for proceeding after the manner of the Egyptians and Assyrians to drink the waters of their rivers; that is, to have recourse for help to the Gods on whom those nations placed their dependence. *Sichor* or *Shichor* is a name given to the Nile. See Bp. Lowth’s Note on Isai. xxiii. 3. And *נחור* denotes the river Euphrates by way of eminence, often with the article *ה* prefixed, and sometimes without it; as Ps. lxxx. 12. Isai. vii. 20. Mich. vii. 12.

19. Thine adversity—] So *רעתך* signifies ver. 27. and *רעתך* being considered in the same light here becomes a proper subject for both *תיסרך* and *תוכיחך*, and affords a sense perfectly well suited to the context.

20.—thou hast broken thy yoke, thou hast burst thy bands] The LXX. and Vulg. appear to have read *שברת* and *נרקת* instead of *נחיתת* and *נחיתת*; and the context plainly shews that to have been the right reading. For doubtless it was not God that relaxed the discipline: but it was the people themselves, that, like an unruly beast, “broke the yoke, and burst the bands,” spurning and casting off all manner of restraint. See Ch. v. 5. One MS. reads *שברת*.

Ibid. I will not be under subjection] The Masoretes propose to read *לֹא אֶעֱבֹר*, “I will not transgress,” after the Chaldee: and are followed by fifteen MSS. and six Editions. Also nineteen MSS. and one Edition read *לֹא אֶעֱבֹר*. But the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. confirm the received reading of the Text, which is clearly preferable.

Ibid. Will I prostitute myself] For *אֶחָצֵק* I propose to read *אֶחָצֵק* in one word, considering it as the first person future in *Hithpael* from *צָק*, the sense of which may be deduced from the Arabic verb, *ساق*, *inclinator fuit, submitit se*. Accordingly the LXX. here render, *διακνησόμεαι*. And the Vulgate, which reads *אֶחָצֵק* in two words, adheres notwithstanding to the abovementioned sense of *צָק*, and renders, *tu prosterneris*. This verb will be further considered in a note on Ch. xlviii. 12.

21. A vine of Sorek] See Bp. Lowth's note on Isai. v. 2.

Ibid. How do I find thee changed] Literally, "How art thou changed to me?" *Πως μεταβης μου*; LXX. MS. Pachom.

Ibid.. Depart, O vine of spurious growth] This passage has occasioned great perplexity; but it does not seem to have occurred to any interpreter, that סורי is the imperative feminine of סור, and signifies, "Depart, Get thee gone;" being addressed by God to the house of Israel under the character of a vine, which is discarded for having adulterated the good qualities of its original stock. גבריו properly signifies *strange*, of a different nature from the stock, whence it was taken. Compare the beautiful allegory in Isaiah, Ch. v. 1—7.

22. Nitre] This is not the same that we call Nitre, or Saltpetre, but a native salt of a different kind, distinguished among naturalists by the name of *Natrum*, or the nitre of the ancients. It is found in abundance in Egypt and in many parts of Asia, where it is called soap-earth, because it is dissolved in water, and used like soap in washing.

23.—thy ways] The LXX. Syr. Chald. Vulg. all render "thy ways." דרכיך, thy courses, or modes of proceeding. "See thy ways in the valley;" that is, see how thou hast prostituted thyself, and practised the grossest idolatry in the valley; alluding to those idolatrous acts which were practised in the valley of Hinnom. See Ch. vii. 31. Is. lvii. 5, 6.

24. A fleet dromedary that hath taken to company with her] משרכת דרכיה, *participem fecit viarum suarum*. The sense of משרכת may be deduced from the Arabic verb, شَرَكَ, *consortem, participem fecit*. These words have been very improperly joined with the preceding verse. It is manifest that בקרה קלח must (for according to the rules of Syntax קלח, which is masculine, cannot) be the subject of the feminine verb שמתה, and the antecedent of the feminine pronouns which follow. The impossibility of restraining one of those fleet animals, when hurried away by the impetuous call of nature, is represented as a parallel to that unbridled lust and eagerness, with which the people of Judah ran after the gratification of their passion for idolatry, which is called *spiritual whoredom*.

Ibid.—In the desire of her soul] במחצית נפשו. Forty two MSS. and six Editions read with the Masoretes, נפש.

Ibid.—When her heat is over—] בזמנה. Our English versions, both ancient and modern, render, "in her month," which in the margin of the ancient Bible is explained, "when she is with foal." But בזמנה, from the verb זרש to *renew*, may be literally translated, "in her renewal," that is, when the heat is abated, and she begins to come about again to the same state as before the fit came on. The LXX. seem so to have understood it, *ὅταν ταπεινωθῇ αὐτή*, "when she is humbled." And perhaps it was designed to insinuate to God's people by way of reproach, that they were less governable than even the brute beast, which, after having followed the bent of appetite for a little time,

would cool again, and return quietly home to her owners ; but the idolatrous fit seemed never to abate, nor to suffer the people to return to their duty—Or else it may mean, that when their affairs took a new turn, and became adverse, then would be the time when they being humbled would again have recourse to the true God, who alone could save them.

25. Keep back thy foot from being unshod] This is generally understood to be an advice to abstain from wearing out the shoes by running after idols incessantly, and from thirsting after their worship. But I rather take it to be a warning to beware of the consequences of pursuing the courses they were addicted to ; as if it had been said, Take care that thou dost not expose thyself by thy wicked ways to the wretched condition of going into captivity unshod, as the manner is represented, *Isai. xx. 4.* and of serving thine enemies in hunger, and in thirst, and in want of the necessities of life. *Deut. xxviii. 48.* Forty MSS. and five Editions read with the Masora, וּנְרוּנָךְ.

26. and their princes] Fifteen MSS. add the conjunction ו, and read, וּשְׂרֵיָם ; and so do the LXX and Syr.

27.—thou hast brought me forth] The Masoretes propose to read אִתּוֹ יִלְדִיתָנִי. “Thou hast brought us forth.” But the received reading of the text seems preferable, as it is in uniformity with אִבִּי, “MY father.”

30. Your own sword] The LXX. and Syr. read simply “the sword,” without the pronoun. But all the collated MSS. with the Chald. and Vulgate, read חֶרֶבְכֶם. The meaning is, that they were so far from turning God’s chastisements to their own improvement, that on the contrary they put their prophets to death, who in God’s name exhorted them to repentance. See *2 Chron. xxiv. 20, 21. xxxvi. 16. Neh. ix. 26. Matt. xxiii. 30—37. Acts vii. 52.*

31.—Behold ye the cause of JEHOVAH] דְּבַר here is not to be rendered “the word,” but “the cause” or “case” of JEHOVAH, respecting the controversy spoken of ver 29. וְאֵל is therefore used with great propriety taking דְּבַר in this sense ; but it would have been a kind of *Catachresis* to say, “See the word of JEHOVAH.”

[*Ibid*:—a land of darkness—] The Vulgate and some other interpreters have rendered מִצְרַיִם מְאֻמָּלִית, *terra serotina*, a land backward or late in producing its fruits ; from the sense ascribed to מְאֻמָּלִית, *Exod. ix. 32. late or backward grain.* But I prefer “a land of darkness ;” as *darkness* is often used to denote calamity and distress. See *Ch. xiii. 16. Isai. v. 30. viii. 22.* The meaning of the passage is, Have I been wanting to you, whilst ye were under my guidance, in providing you with good things ? Or have I brought you into the gloom of trouble and distress ? Some have supposed מְאֻמָּלִית to have had the sacred name of יְיָ added *augendi significationem causa* ; but I am apt to think either that the original reading was מְאֻמָּלָה ; or that מְאֻמָּלִית is an adjective from the substantive מְאֻמָּל.

Ibid. We are our own masters] שֶׁנִּינוּנוּ may be rendered ; and in

this sense the passage will be found to correspond with what is said ver. 20. "Thou hast broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands, and hast said, I will not be in subjection."

33.--have I taught calamities thy ways.] The Masoretes for למדת adopt למדת, which is countenanced by the LXX. Syr. Chald. Vulg. and by fifteen MSS. and four Editions. Nevertheless I prefer the received reading of the text, which implies, that God had directed calamities where to find them, in return for their having addressed themselves to idolatrous pursuits.

34. Also in thy skirts is found blood] The LXX. and Syr. seem to have read בכפך "in thy hands" instead of בכנפך. But all the collated MSS. concur in the latter; and כנפים may signify both the *skirts* of a garment, and the *outskirts* or *borders* of a city or country; both which senses are here intended, the former being the metaphorical, the latter the literal sense. For דם the LXX read דמים, and in one MS. there is an erasure of two letters after דם. The plural verb נמצאו, and the plural affix in מצאתים require דמים. In the law *the blood* is said to be *the life* of an animal; Gen. ix. 4. Lev. xvii. 14. Deut. xii. 23. so that נפשות here seems to be added exegetically of דמים or דם. And in like manner it is obvious that, Gen. ix. 5. לנפשתיכם אורש should not be rendered, "the blood of your lives;" but "your blood, even your lives, will I require."

Ibid.—in a digged hole] Thus the LXX. and indeed all the ancient Versions represent the sense of במחצרות, except that the LXX. rather read במחצרות in the plural number, οὐ διασπασασι. So likewise our ancient English Version, "I have not found it in holes." The meaning of which is this; In the law it is commanded, Lev. xvii. 13. that the blood of animals killed in hunting should be covered with dust; in order, no doubt, to create an horror at the sight of blood. In allusion to this command, it is urged against Jerusalem, Ezek. xxiv. 7. that she had not only shed blood in the midst of her, but that "she had set it upon the top of a rock, and poured it not upon the ground to cover it with dust;" that is, she had seemed to glory in the crime, by doing it in the most open and audacious manner, so as to challenge God's vengeance. In like manner it is said here, that God had not discovered the blood that was shed in holes under ground, but that it was sprinkled upon every oak, before which their inhuman sacrifices had been performed.

Ibid.—upon every oak] So the LXX. and Syr. rightly render אלה, according to its proper sense in this place. See the note preceding.

36.—thy ways] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. read דרכיך, and so do three MSS. two of them ancient.

Ibid.—By means of Egypt also—] The people of Judah seem to have courted the assistance of foreign nations by a sinful compliance with their idolatrous customs. But this measure, it is observed, had already failed them, and they had been disappointed in their expectations from

Assyria in the time of king Ahaz, who, as we read, 2 Chron. xxviii. 16—21. called upon the king of Assyria to help him in his need; but he distressed him only, instead of helping him. In the same manner also, it is here prophesied, they would be served by the Egyptians; whose alliance would only disappoint them, and make them ashamed of having trusted to so ineffectual a support; and it turned out accordingly. See Ch. xxxvii. 7, 8.

37. With thy hands upon thy head] To cover the head was a mark of great affliction. See Ch. xiv. 3. 2 Sam. xiii. 19. xv. 30.

CHAP. III.

1. Whilst thou sayest] In the copies of the LXX. now extant, there is no word in the Greek that answers to **לֵאמֹר**. But that this was not always the case, may be learnt from Jerome, who here expresses himself thus, “*Vulgo dicitur (pro quo LXX tantum dicitur transtulerunt) Si &c.*”—But **לֵאמֹר** is a gerund, *Dicendo*, and requires to be constructed with the words that follow, **וְאָתָּה זֹנִית רַעִים רַבִּים**, thus; “In saying” or, “Whilst thou sayest, or acknowledgest that the law of God, Deut. xxiv. 1—4. forbids a man to take to his wife again, whom he had divorced, and who had gone from him, and engaged herself to another; **EVEN THOU** hast gone from me, and hast had an unlawful commerce with many lovers; and of course hast placed thyself in such a predicament, as to have no reason to expect that I should take to thee again upon any consideration. Yet after all this I give thee liberty to return to me, saith **יְהוָה**.” The Vulgate subjoins, *et ego suscipiam te*, “and I will take thee again.” Which words, though not to be found in any copy of the Hebrew text, nor in any other of the ancient versions, are clearly implied. It is observable, that not only the letter of the law is here set forth in the prohibition, “He shall not return unto her,” or take her again; but the reason of it is specified, “lest the land be defiled,” or caused to sin, by the encouragement which such facility in the husband might afford to vice and licentiousness. But in the present instance God assumes the authority of a supreme Lawgiver, that of dispensing with his own laws, whenever the good intention of them can be better answered by a different mode of proceeding.—We may likewise remark, how well this merciful declaration tallies with what was before declared at the very beginning of this prophecy, Ch. ii. 2. that God was inclined to remember in favour of his people that tenderness and affection, which he bore them in former days, when he at first espoused them, or took them into covenant with him:

2.—in the highways] So **עַל־דַּרְכֵּי** signifies, Ch. vi. 16. And these words I connect with those that go before, as they bespeak the flagrancy of the crime, committed not in a private retired corner, which would argue some regard to decency at least; but with the most consummate impudence “in the public ways,” in the face of the whole world, setting all authority, divine and human, at defiance, and corrupting others by the vile example. See Ezek. xvi. 24, 25. 31.

Ibid.—like an Arabian in the desert] Mr Harmer has cited from a MS. of Sir John Chardin the following lively description of the attention and eagerness of the Arabs in watching for passengers, whom they may spoil. “Thus the Arabs wait for caravans with the most violent avidity, looking about them on all sides, raising themselves up on their horses, running here and there to see if they cannot perceive any smoke, or dust, or tracks on the ground, or any other marks of people passing along.” Harmer’s Observations, Vol. I. Ch. ii. Obs. 7.

3. And although the showers have been withholden] The general import of the passage is, That though God had begun in some degree to chastise his people (as he threatened, Lev. xxvi. 19. Deut xxviii. 23.) with a view to their reformation, his chastisement had not produced the desired effect, for they continued as abandoned as before, without shewing the least sign of shame or remorse. By *the showers* we are to understand what is otherwise called *the former* or *first rain*, being the first that falls in autumn after a long summer’s drought, which is usually terminated in Judea and the neighbouring countries by heavy showers that last for some days. In Judea, according to Dr Shaw, who, as Mr Harmer well observes, must have learnt it by inquiries from the inhabitants of the country, the beginning of November is the time of the first descent of rain; though in other parts of Syria it happens sooner. *The latter rain* is that which generally comes about the middle of April; after which it seldom or never rains during the whole summer. And therefore when at the prayer of Samuel the Lord sent thunder and rain in the time of wheat harvest, as we read 1 Sam. xii. 17, 18. such an unusual phænomenon, happening immediately according to the prophet’s prediction, was justly considered as an authentic sign of his having spoken by the divine authority. But we are not to conclude, as some have done, that between the former and latter rains there was no more rain during the whole winter. The fact is otherwise; for besides what are sometimes called *the second rains*, which commonly succeed *the first* after an interval of fine weather for a number of days, the winter months are more or less indiscriminately wet, as may be collected from sundry passages in Scripture, as well as from the accounts of travellers who have been in those parts. However *the former* and *latter*, or as we may call them, the autumnal and vernal, rains are particularly distinguished, because that on the regular returns of these the plentiful harvests essentially depend; the former being absolutely requisite for seed time; and the latter for filling the ears of corn before the harvest comes on. I say, the former for seed time; for Mr Harmer very justly reproves those, who suppose the former rain not to come till after sowing, to make the seed take root; for the Arabs of Barbary, he says, break up their grounds after the first rains in order to sow wheat; and the sowing of barley, &c. is still later; and at Aleppo too the ploughing does not commence till after the rainy season is come. And we may fairly presume the case to be the same in Judea, since after the long dry weather the parched ground would naturally require some previous moistening, before it could be put in fit order for receiving the seed. But not only the crops of grain must suffer by the suspension or failure of either the

first, or latter rains, or of both; but by the uncommon lengthening of the summer drought, the pasturage would fail for the cattle, and the fountains and reservoirs, or cisterns of waters, from whence the people of that country had their chief or only supply, would be exhausted and dried up; so that there would be at least as much danger of perishing by thirst as by famine.—See Harmer's Observations, Vol. I. Ch. i. Concerning the Weather in the holy land.

4. Wilt thou not from henceforward call upon me] קראתי must needs be wrong. Twenty one MSS. and three Editions read according to the marginal correction in Van der Hooght's Edition קראת. But I rather think that by a transposition of letters we should read הקראי, which is favoured by the Chald. and Syr. versions, by one MS. which reads קראי, and another that reads קרא. One MS. reads את קראת which would amount to the same sense, קראת being the feminine participle present.

5. Shall displeasure be held in view for ever?] Both וינטר and ישמר are passive verbs in the 3d pers. sing. of the future, taken impersonally. נטר signifies to *keep the eye fixed* on an object, as upon a mark of displeasure with a settled design of avenging. See ver. 12. And שמר, to *note* or *mark* faults, with a like view to punishment. See Taylor's Hebrew Concordance on both these words.

Ibid. Behold thou hast spoken and done] All the ancient versions appear to have read דברת instead of דברתי, and so do twenty eight MSS. (two of them ancient) and five Editions either in the text or margin. God had by his prophets endeavoured to dissuade his people from going on with their evil courses, but his arguments had no weight with them; they continued to do as they had said or resolved; they carried their wicked thoughts into execution, in spite of all that was urged to the contrary.

Ibid.—and hast prevailed] For ותוכל it is obvious we should read ויתעשי, as well as ותוכלי. It properly signifies, “thou hast carried thy point in the contest.” See ch. xx. 7.

6. Here begins an entire new Section or distinct Prophecy, which is continued to the end of the 6th Chapter. The charge of hypocrisy upon Judah at the 10th verse of this Chapter points out the date of this prophecy to have been in the reign of Josiah, and some time after his eighteenth year, when the people under the influence of their good king were professedly engaged in measures of reformation; which however are here declared to have been insincere.

This prophecy consists of two distinct parts. The first part contains a complaint against Judah for having exceeded the guilt of her sister Israel, whom God had already cast off for her idolatrous apostasy. (v. 6—12.) The prophet is hereupon sent to announce to Israel the promise of pardon upon her repentance, and the hopes of a glorious restoration in after times, which are plainly marked out to be the times of the gospel, when the Gentiles themselves were to become a part of the Church. (v. 12,—21.) The children of Israel confessing and be-

wailing their sins, have the same comfortable assurances as before repeated to them, v. 22.—Ch. iv. 2.

In the second part, which begins Ch. iv. 3. and is prefaced with an address to the people of Judah and Jerusalem, exhorting them to prevent the divine judgments by a timely repentance, the Babylonian invasion is clearly and fully foretold, with all the miseries which it would be attended with; and the universal and incorrigible depravity of the people is represented at large, and pointed out as the justly provoking cause of the national ruin.

7.—saw it] וַתִּרְאֶה. Nineteen MSS. and three Editions read with the Masoretes וַתִּרְאֶה, omitting the ה, which however may be the pronoun affix, ה.

9. And it came to pass] Four MSS. (two of them ancient) and one Edition read וַיְהִי.—By וַיְהִי I take to be meant, that she was not nice in the choice of the objects, but was ready to prostitute herself to all that came in her way; that is, she eagerly fell in with all kinds of idolatrous worship indiscriminately, descending so low as to images of wood and stone.

11.—hath justified herself] צִדְקָתָהּ נִפְשָׁהּ; hath appeared righteous in comparison with Judah. A phrase of the like sort occurs, Luke xviii. 14. where the humble penitent publican is said to have gone down to his house *justified rather than* the proud presumptuous Pharisee.

12.—towards the north—] Assyria and Media, where the ten tribes of Israel were disposed of by their conqueror, who carried them into captivity, lay to the north of Judea.

Ibid. I will not look down upon you with a lowering brow] אֶפְרִי לֹא פָנִי בָכֶם—Literally, “I will not let my countenance fall upon you.” So when Cain was wroth, it is said, that “his countenance fell,” וַיִּפֹּל פָּנָיו. Gen. iv. 5. On the contrary, *the lifting up of the countenance upon* any person denotes favour and good will towards him. See Numb. vi. 26.

Ibid.—I will not keep displeasure in view for ever.] אֲשׁוּר לְעוֹלָם לֹא See ver. 5.

14. For I have been a husband among you] The covenant between God and his people is often represented as a marriage contract; see Note on Ch. ii. 2. When therefore God says here, that he had been, or had acted the part of, a husband among them, he means to remind them, that he had fulfilled the covenant on his part, by protecting and blessing them as he had promised, when he engaged to be their God. And therefore as they had never any reason to complain of him, he urges them to return to their duty, and promises in that case to be still kinder to them than before. See the words, וְאֲנִי בְעֵלְתִּי בָכֶם, Ch. xxxi. 32. and the Note there.

Ibid. And I will take you one out of a city, &c.] This undoubtedly relates to their call into the Christian Church, into which they were brought, not all at a time, nor in a national capacity, but severally as

individuals, here and there one. So it is said, "And ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye sons of Israel." Isai. xxvii. 12.

16. They shall no more say, [The ark of the covenant] Here God comforts the Jews with an assurance that though upon their return to him they might not find themselves in possession of exactly the same privileges as they had before, they should be no losers, but should receive ample indemnification, so as to leave them no just cause of regret. The ark of the covenant was the visible seat of God's residence among his people; it was therefore the object of their boast; but after the destruction of the first temple they had it no more. But to compensate this loss, they are told in the next verse, that "Jerusalem should be called the throne of JEHOVAH," to which not the Jews only, but "all nations, should resort." By Jerusalem is probably meant the Christian Church; See Gal. iv. 26. Rev. xxi. 2, 3. The greater privileges of this latter would of course supersede all boast on account of those which had belonged to the Jewish Church at any time.

+ Ibid. Nor shall it be the delight of their heart] Literally, "Nor shall it ascend upon, or near, the heart;" וְלֹא יַעֲלֶה עַל-לֵב. That the import of the phrase is such as I have represented, may be seen by comparing several passages of Scripture, where it occurs. See afterwards Ch. vii. 31. xliv. 21. What value the Israelites set upon the ark, how much they were attached to it, appears from their concern when it fell into the hands of the Philistines, 1 Sam. iv. 11—22. vii. 2. the joy on its being brought into the city of David, 2 Sam. vi. and the public festivals and gladness on its being placed in the temple by Solomon, 1 Kings viii.

Ibid.—Nor shall they remember it—] They shall forget the less in contemplation of the greater benefit. So Isa. lxxv. 17. God says, that when he creates a new heaven and a new earth, the former should not be remembered, nor held in any esteem, viz. because of the greater glory of the latter.

Ibid. Nor shall they care for it] בָּקַשׁ signifies to look after a thing, which has been long lost or neglected, with a wish or design to recover or restore it. In this sense God is said to have *visited* his people, Exod. iii. 16. Luke i. 68. He once again began to concern himself about them. And so it is said of the people, Isai. xxvi. 16. "O JEHOVAH, in trouble we have visited thee," that is, we who before neglected thee, in our affliction have turned our thoughts and attention towards thee.

Ibid. Nor shall it be made any more] Commentators have mightily perplexed themselves about these words; but surely in the most literal rendering they have a plain and obvious meaning. The ark, once lost, was never to be made again. And for a good reason, which immediately follows; because instead of the ark, Jerusalem itself was to become the seat of God's residence.

17. And all nations shall resort to it in the name of JEHOVAH] After these words we find in the Hebrew, לִירוּשָׁלַם, "to Jerusalem;" but no such word is found in the LXX. Syr. or Arabic versions. And

xliv 21
will not
be remembered
in the heart
of them
that are
there

it is certainly a redundancy, the same being already expressed in מליר; so that it seems to have been an interpolation from the margin, where it had most probably been placed by some annotator to point out the antecedent of מליר.

18.—shall the house of Judah go unto the house of Israel] The reunion of Israel and Judah, and their joint-participation of the blessings of the Messiah's kingdom, is elsewhere foretold; see Ch. xxiii. 6. xxx. 3—9. Isa. xi. 12, 13. Ezek. xxxvii. 21, 22. Hos. i. 11. Rom. xi. 26. And that in the latter days they shall actually return from their several dispersions, to dwell as a nation in their own land, is declared in such express terms by most of the ancient prophets, that there cannot be a doubt, I think, of its being literally accomplished in due time.

19—the glory of hosts of nations] The land of promise is stiled, צבי לכל הארצות, “a glory among all lands,” Ezek xx. 6. And the phrase here used seems to be of the like import, צבי צבאות גוים, “the glory of hosts or multitudes, of nations,” that which they esteem glorious. The Paronomasia is a figure the Hebrew writers much delight in. But by “the land of desire,” and “the glory of hosts of nations,” the Christian Church, and the privileges of the gospel covenant, seem here to be figuratively designed. And the conditions of adoption into the former, and of enjoying the latter, are expressly stated by Christ and his apostles to be the same as are here prescribed, namely, the profession of a true faith in God, and uniform obedience for the time to come. “Thou shalt call me, My father; and thou shalt not turn aside from following me.”

20. Surely as a wicked woman breaketh her faith] מרעור seems to be the feminine of מרע, *an evil doer*, or *wicked person*, and is thus to be joined with אשר. All the ancient versions express כ, the particle of comparison, before בגדר; but the Ellipsis is also very frequent.

21. A voice hath been heard upon the plains—] Why שפיים or שפיים is interpreted *plains* rather than *high places*, may be seen at large in the Note on Ch. iv. 11. The people are here represented as assembled together on a great plain, confessing and bewailing their idolatries, and the evils thereby occasioned.—All the ancient versions seem to have read בכי ותחנוני.

22. I will heal your apostasies—] For מרפא twenty nine MSS. (nine of them accounted ancient) and three Editions read מרפא, besides five MSS. in which the ך is upon a rasure. The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. read the same; and it is further justified by Hos. xiv. 5: “I will heal your apostasies” means, I will take away the guilt of them.

Ibid. Behold we come unto thee] What follows to the end of the chapter is spoken in the name of the Israelites, accepting the divine invitation, acknowledging the vanity of their misplaced trust, and professing the deepest contrition and shame for their misbehaviour.

23. Surely hills are lies, the tumult of mountains] Instead of לשקר

לשקרים נבעות both Syr. and Vulg. seem to have read נבעות. This will render the passage clear and consistent with the context. The people acknowledge that the hills, the places sacred to idolatrous worship, and the tumultuous rites with which that worship was accompanied (See 1 Kings xviii. 26, 28.) were mere impostures, deceiving and disappointing those that trusted in them : whereas JEHOVAH was indeed the author of salvation to his people.

24,—that thing of shame] חובשת, meaning the idol whom they worshipped, called by the same name, Ch. xi. 13. Hos. ix. 10. and with good reason, because in return for all the expence and pains bestowed upon it, it only frustrated the hopes of its votaries, and, as it follows in the next verse, left them mortified with disappointment, and overwhelmed with disgrace, for having deserted the service of a Being that could have saved them, in pursuit of so vile and worthless an object.

Ibid.—the substance] יניע properly signifies *labour* and *toil*; but is here put by Metonymy for *the substance* acquired by toil.

CHAP. IV.

THE two first verses of this chapter ought not to have been separated from the foregoing ; being spoken in reply to the confession of the people of Israel, and concluding that part of the prophecy which respected them.

1.—unto me shalt thou return] The meaning is, that upon their conversion they should be accepted, and received again into the bosom of God's church, from which they had before apostatized.

Ibid. From before me shalt thou not be removed] Ten MSS. (four of them ancient) together with the Syr. Chald. and Vulg. read נל for ול. And the parallelism of the lines seems to require it so.

2. But thou shalt swear, As JEHOVAH liveth—] This is as much as to say, Thou shalt be of the number of those that worship the true God. For an oath is one of the most solemn acts of religious invocation ; and therefore God's people are expressly charged to swear by his name, and by no other ; Deut. vi. 13. x. 20. Josh. xxiii. 7. And to "swear by JEHOVAH" is used as synonymous with the profession of his true religion, Isa. xix. 18.—The words which follow regard the propriety of the performance of this religious act ; that the matter be strictly *true* : and the occasion great and important ; either a case of *judgment*, or judicial decision, where, as the Apostle says, "an oath for confirmation is an end of all strife," Heb. vi. 16. ; or of *righteousness*, where some of the great and valuable purposes of truth and moral goodness are to be served ; as we see it frequently applied by St Paul in his gospel ministry. Rom. i. 9. ix. 1. 2 Cor. xi. 31. xii. 19. Gal. i. 20. &c. &c.

3. Break up your ground in tillage] נירו לבם ניר. The same

words occur, Hos. x. 12. נִיר primarily signifies *a light or lamp*. Hence it is applied to denote *ploughing or tillage*; the ground being turned up to the light, and cleared from the weeds and thorns that overshadowed it. The metaphor then may be easily understood; "Clear away all corrupt habits and practices, which, if suffered to grow, will choke and destroy every good seed or virtuous principle, which may be sown in your hearts." See Matt. xiii. 7.

4. Be ye circumcised] Circumcision as well as Baptism had a moral import, and denoted the obligation of putting away all sinful lusts of the flesh, every irregular and inordinate affection and appetite. Compare Deut. x. 16. xxx. 6. Rom. ii. 29. Col. ii. 11.

5. Sound ye] Twenty eight MSS. (six of them ancient) and four Editions, with the LXX. Syr. and Chald. versions, confirm the Masoretic reading, תַּקְעוּ, without the conjunction ו.

Ibid. Proclaim throughout] מְלֵא signifies to do a thing fully or completely; so that קְרָאוּ מְלֵא taken together may signify, "Proclaim fully, or every where throughout the land."

6.—a standard] The LXX. render נֶס "flight:" but it certainly means a standard set up for the purpose of drawing people together.

7.—shall be ruined] The word in the original is תַּצִּינָה; but its authenticity is much to be questioned; as נֶצַח, from whence it should be derived, does not seem capable of a sense suitable to this place. One MS. reads תַּצְנָה. In another the י is upon a rasure; and two MSS. read תַּצְנָה. I should think the true reading may have been תַּחֲצִינָה from תַּחַץ, which verb is used ver. 26. and frequently elsewhere by this prophet in the sense here required. The LXX. render by a word exactly of the same import, καταρρινωσονται. Or it may have been תַּצְרִינָה, which is the word used by the Syriac and Chaldee.—By "the lion" is undoubtedly meant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. See Ch. i. 17.

8.—is not turned away from him] Here מִמֶּנּוּ is ambiguous, as it may signify either *from him* or *from us*. I think it rather means that God's anger was not gone from him; but still continued to burn fiercely within him. So שׁוּב is used as I apprehend, Isa. v. 25. Anger being represented as an accidental quality in God, coming and going according as the provocation is present or removed. The LXX. and Syr. render, *from you*; the Chald. and Vulg. *from us*.

11. As the wind that scorcheth—] Of the malignancy of the south wind blowing over the deserts of Arabia, travellers have given dreadful accounts. The effect of this wind is not only to render the air extremely hot and scorching, but to fill it with poisonous and suffocating vapours. It sometimes becomes a whirlwind, raising up large quantities of sand, so as to darken the air, and not seldom to bury underneath the unfortunate traveller. The most violent storms that Judea was subject to came from that quarter. See Bp. Lowth's Note on Isai. xxi. 1. and Mr Harmer's citation from Maillet's Memoirs; Ch. i. Obs. 16.

[Ibid.—the plains in the wilderness] I know not why our Translators

have constantly rendered שפיים or שפיים, *high places*. Taking all the texts together where the word occurs, we shall find this sense very little countenanced by the ancient versions; and it is still less by etymology. The verbs שפף and שפר both in Syr. and Chald. signify *to render smooth* by shaving, filing, or rubbing, &c. In Hebrew שפר Job xxxiii. 21. being applied to the bones of an emaciated body, is rendered by the Vulgate, nudabuntur, *shall be left bare*. And שפר על הר Isa. xiii. 2. which our English Translators have rendered, “upon the high mountain,” the LXX. have translated, ἐπὶ ὄρει, upon a mountain with a plain surface, clear from trees that might intercept the view of the signal placed on it. Hence I conceive that שפיים or שפיים may more properly be understood to denote open plains, in contradistinction to woodland.—מדבר sometimes signifies no more than an extensive tract of waste uncultivated common appropriated to pasturage; and as this may consist of both open down and woodland, שפיים במדבר may denote the former, and, I think, evidently does so, Ch. xii. 12. But by מדבר is sometimes meant the great desert lying to the south of Judea; and as that was the place chiefly annoyed by the hot scorching wind abovementioned, I am inclined to think that שפיים במדבר here mean the unsheltered plains of that desert.

Ibid.—[Shall come toward the daughter of my people] The verb יבוא, which follows in the next verse, is equally subservient to the Nominative צד here, as to מלא there. I have therefore expressed it in both places, because the nature of the English language will not admit of such an elongation of the verb, though the Hebrew may.

12. A full wind for a curse shall come] Our Translators with the Vulgate have rendered מאלר, “from these” (*high places*, שפיים). But if the scorching wind be, as before observed, the south wind blowing over the plains in the desert, then coming from those plains it would come from the south. But it is expressly said, ver. 6. that the evil should come from the north. Consequently, though the calamity coming upon Jerusalem might be compared to such a malignant wind, it would not have been said to come from that quarter. Grotius, Michaelis, and others, render with the Syr. מאלר, “stronger than these,” namely, stronger than those winds which serve for the before-mentioned purposes of winnowing and cleansing. But I hardly think this construction justifiable. I am more inclined to construe מאלר a *curse*, but not rendering מלא מאלר, as some have done, *plenus maledictione*; because I question whether מלא is ever followed by מ in this manner. But as in the preceding verse the end for which the wind should come is expressed negatively “not to winnow nor cleanse;” so here מאלר seems to denote positively its mischievous purpose; it shall come “for a curse.” That the particle מ has this force, see Ezek. xlviii. 29.

Ibid.—[at my bidding] לי, *by or through me, or according to my direction, disposition or appointment*. So Isa. xxix. 2. לי באריאל, “But it shall become through me (or according to my appoint-”

ment) as Ariel." See also Ch. xv. 8. xxii. 6. xxxi. 38. And that the wind spoken of was of God's appointment, coming not *to* him, but *from* him for a judicial purpose, is apparent from the words that follow.

Ibid.—Now even I will proceed judicially with them] גַּם־אֲנִי is emphatical, and seems to have an eye to the charge brought by Jeremiah ver. 10. of God's having promised his people peace. Instead of which God declares, that even he himself, who was supposed to have made the promise, would notwithstanding proceed in a judicial way to punish them for their wickedness. See Note on Ch. i. 16.

13.—shall he come up] That is, the person designed by the lion, and the destroyer of nations, ver. 7. namely the king of Babylon. Compare Isai. v. 26.—28.

14.—the devices of thine iniquity.] For מַחֲשָׁבוֹת the ancient Bodleian MS. and four more read מַחֲשָׁבָה in the singular number, which indeed agrees better with חֲלִי. But all the ancient versions render both the nominative and the verb in the plural; and therefore I am more inclined to think that חֲלִי is used in the singular according to an Hebrew idiom, which admits of a verb in the singular joined with a plural subject taken distributively. Buxtorf. Thes. Gram. Lib. ii. cap. 10.

15. For a voice declareth from Dan, &c.] In respect to the sense of this verse I think differently from the generality of Interpreters, who conceive מִן to mean the calamitous invasion of the Chaldean army, the news of which reached Jerusalem first from Dan, and afterwards from mount Ephraim, in the order of their march thitherward. Others have supposed an allusion to the idolatry set up by Jeroboam in Bethel, a city of Ephraim, and in Dan, which proved the ruin of the kingdom of Israel in the end. But I rather think that מִן simply and properly denotes the iniquity or idolatry of Judah, as in the preceding verse, which is hereby intimated not to have been a secret or unknown transaction, but as public and notorious, as if it had been proclaimed upon the frontiers. Dan and Ephraim were tribes bordering upon the kingdom of Judah northwards. And as the crime was thus public, for this reason, as it should seem, it is directed in the next verse, that the neighbouring nations should be made acquainted with its punishment also, for the sake of example.

16.—watchers—] By "watchers" are meant besiegers, placing sentinels round the city to prevent any from coming in or going out; and keeping the place in continual alarm by shouts of war.

17.—Like keepers of fields] Mr Harmer cites from Sir John Chardin's MS. the following remark on this place. "As in the east, pulse, roots, &c. grow in open and uninclosed fields, when they begin to be fit to gather, they place guards, if near a great road, more, if distant, fewer, who place themselves in a round about these grounds, as is practised in Arabia." Ch. v. Obser. 15.

18. Such is thy calamity; for it is bitterness, &c.] In the preceding line מִלֵּךְ is rendered "a curse;" and such the evil or calamity brought

upon Jerusalem by her wickedness is here proved to be, as being attended with all those bitter and afflictive effects, which the nature of a curse implies.

19. My bowels, my bowels are pained—] For **אֲחֻלִּי** the Masoretes read **אֲחֻלִּי**, with the concurrence of eighteen MSS. and five Editions besides the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmud. This however can hardly be right, as it is the future *Hiphil* of **יָחַל**, *to wait or hope for*; a sense which by no means suits this place. But the MSS. exhibit other various readings. Two MSS. read **אֲחֻלִּי**. Twenty two MSS. and seven Editions **אֲחֻלִּי**; Two MSS. **אֲחֻלִּי**. Four **אֲחֻלִּי**. In one MS. **ח** is upon a rasure; and one reads **אֲחֻלִּי**. From these variations the probability of an error may be concluded; and I am inclined to think that it lies principally in the first letter, which, by a mistake frequently made between the Characteristics, is put for **ח**. So **וְהָאֵלֹהִים** Isai. lxiii. 3. is an evident mistake for **וְהָאֵלֹהִים**; and **וְהָאֵלֹהִים** Ezek. xiv. 3. for **וְהָאֵלֹהִים**. See also **אֲחֻלִּי** for **אֲחֻלִּי** Ch. viii. 13. and **וְהָאֵלֹהִים** for **וְהָאֵלֹהִים**, Ch. xxv. 3.—The true reading in this place I take to be **וְהָאֵלֹהִים**, leaving the **ח** final to be prefixed as an article to **קִרְוֹת**. Nor is this founded on mere conjecture only, for it seems evidently to have been the reading, from which the Syr. and Chaldee versions were made, saving only that they seem to have read **לִי** after the verb. It is also plain that the LXX. though they render the verb in the first person singular, found a *Vau* between that and the noun which follows, reading it **וְהָאֵלֹהִים**, **καὶ τὰ περιστεῖα**. But **וְהָאֵלֹהִים**, the initial **א** being changed as before proposed, becomes by a different combination of the letters, **וְהָאֵלֹהִים**—By “the walks of the heart” is undoubtedly meant the pericardium, a membrane which sits loose about the heart, surrounding and guarding it like a walk. So that the passion of grief, we may observe, is here described as progressive in a climax. It first affects the bowels, next proceeds to the pericardium, approaching nearer to the heart. It then reaches the very heart itself, where becoming too big to be contained, it breaks forth in outward expression.

Ibid.—I have heard] The received reading of the text is **שָׁמַעְתִּי**, for which the Masoretes substitute **שָׁמַעַת**, with the concurrence of the ancient Versions, sixteen MSS. and three Editions, besides the Jerusalem Talmud. But the former nevertheless seems in my opinion to be more genuine, as the parallelism of the lines is thereby rendered more complete; the words, “I have heard,” in the one, exactly corresponding with “my soul (hath heard)” in the other.

23—26. I beheld the earth—] The images, under which the prophet represents the approaching desolation as foreseen by him, are such as are familiar to the Hebrew poets on the like occasions. (See Lowth De Sac. Poesi Heb. Præl. ix. and his Note on Isaiah, Ch. xiii. 10.) But the assemblage is finely made, so as to delineate altogether a most striking and interesting picture of a ruined country, and to justify what has been before observed of the author’s happy talent for pathetic description. The earth is brought back as it were to its primitive state

of chaos and confusion : the cheerful light of the heavens is withdrawn, and succeeded by a dismal gloom ; the mountains tremble and the hills shake under dreadful apprehensions of the Almighty's displeasure ; a frightful solitude reigns all around ; not a vestige to be seen of any of the human race ; even the birds themselves have deserted the fields, unable to find any longer in them their usual food. The face of the country in the once most fertile parts of it, now overgrown with briars and thorns, assumes the dreary wildness of the desert. The cities and villages are either thrown down and demolished by the hand of the enemy, or crumble into ruins of their own accord for want of being inhabited.

27. And I will not make an end] That is, I will not desist from giving such marks of my indignation. See Ch. v. 10, 18.

28. Because I have spoken, and I do not repent—] I have followed the order of the words, as represented by the LXX ; which is undoubtedly their natural order.

30. And against spoiling—] Twenty two MSS (seven of them ancient) and three Editions read נִאֵן, according to the Masoretic emendation, for נִאֵן. נִאֵן cannot be the participle, as it is represented in the ancient versions ; because if a participle, it should be feminine נִאֵן. I take it to be the infinitive verb used as a noun, and governed by the preposition אֶל. "What wilt thou do, or how wilt thou guard thyself against spoiling?" The same kind of expression occurs, Ch. v. 31. only the ל is used instead of אֶל.

Ibid.—distendest thy eyes with paint—] This alludes to the custom of the eastern ladies, who esteeming large eyes beautiful, make use of *stibium*, a sort of black paint, which is laid upon the eyelids with a pencil, and being of an astringent quality, partly contracts the eyelids, and partly by the contrast of colour tends to enlarge the appearance of the white part of the eyes. See Bp. Lowth's Note on Isai. iii. 16.—The verb קָרַע properly signifies to *rend* or *tear*, and may denote the use of this process to excess, so as it were to *tear open* the eyes by way of enlarging them.

Dr DURELL has remarked that the Ethiopians to this day paint their eyebrows with antimony mixed with moist soot. See Ludolphi Hist. Æthiop. Lib. vii. c. 7.

31.—she spreadeth out her hands] Spreading out the hands is the gesture of one displaying the helplessness of her condition, and imploring the aid of others. See Lam. i. 17.

Ingemit, et duplices tendens ad sidera palmas,
Taliter voce refert—

Virgil. Æn. I. 97.

CHAP. V.

1.—her broad places] **וּרְחֹבוֹתָיִהּ** mean no doubt, the market places, and other spacious areas in the city, where citizens used to meet for doing business with each other.

2. Surely—] Ten MSS. (four of them ancient) and the first printed Edition of the whole Bible in Hebrew, read **מֵכֵן** instead of **לֵכֵן**; the same is also found in the Notes of the celebrated Edition known by the name of MINCHATH-SHAI. See Dr Kennicott's Dissert. Gen. §. 62. In three other MSS. the **ל** is upon a rasure. **מֵכֵן** is frequently used by this prophet; and is, I doubt not, the true reading here. **לֵכֵן** however is sometimes used for *Nevertheless*; a sense not unsuitable to this place. See Ch. xvi. 14.

3.—are not thine eyes towards the truth?] The eyes turned upon, or towards an object, denote not only a diligent inspection and nice discernment of it, but also an earnest expectation or looking after it. The phrase may here be taken in both senses, that God both seeth and discerneth the truth, and also expects it from others, especially from those, who call upon his name in attestation of it.

Ibid.—but they have refused] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. read **וּמֵאֲנִי** with the conjunction **ו** in both places of this verse, where we find only **מֵאֲנִי** in the Hebrew. In the first instance the **ו** seems requisite in order to support the antithesis; and there is a trace of it in one MS. which, by an evident mistake in the omission of the **נ**, reads **וּמֵאֲנִי** instead of **וּמֵאֲנִי**. But in the second instance the Asyndeton seems more according to the prophet's style. Perhaps the omission of the **ו** in the latter place may have caught the transcriber's eye whilst he was writing the former.

4.—the meaner sort--] So **בְּלִי** properly signifies, and these are properly opposed to **וּבְגִדֵי לֵבָשׁ** in the next verse. The misconduct was not chargeable upon the lower orders of men only, who might have erred through ignorance; the great ones, who had better opportunities of knowing what was right, and what was wrong, were alike sharers in the offence.

Ibid.—have acted foolishly.--] **נִמְאָלוּ**. Perhaps we ought rather to read by transposition **וּנְאֻלִּי**; for *acting foolishly* or *unadvisedly* seems to be the sense here required; but **נִמְאָלוּ** from **נִמַּל** imports to be *fixed* or *resolved upon* a thing simply, without discrimination of good or bad choice. The ancient Bodleian MS. No. 1. and nine more, with three old Editions, read **נִמְאָלוּ**. Thirteen MSS. and three Editions do the like, Isai. xix. 13. Twelve MSS. besides one in the margin, and the oldest printed Edition, read **נִמְאָלִנוּ** for **נִמְאָלִנוּ**, Numb. xii. 11. **וּנְאֻלִּי** is found in the Text, Ch. i. 36. where sixteen MSS. and two Editions have substituted **וּנְאֻלִּי**. It is possible, that as some of the most ancient copies read the word without the **ו** in the middle, the mistake may have been owing to ignorant transcribers, who thinking to ex-

press the word at large, have unskilfully inserted the ו in the wrong place.

6.—a wolf of the plains—] In the margin of our Bibles ערבות is rendered *deserts*; and those wide and extensive plains, or uninclosed commons, seem to be meant, which were used only for sheepwalks and pasturage, and are of course most likely to be infested with wolves. See Note on Ch. ii. 6. The wild beasts here spoken of are the king of Babylon and his troops. See Ch. iv. 7.

7.—can I pardon] Twenty eight MSS. and four Editions read in conformity with the Masora, אמלון for אמלון.

Ibid.—the harlot's house] That is, the idol's temple; as adultery means idolatry.

8. They were libidinous as stallion horses] The general sense of the words is here given. The subject admits not of a more particular explanation. מוֹזְנִים may be rendered *armati, armis instructi*; being the participle in *Hophal* from זין or זון, which in Chald. and Syr. signify, *armavit*. This will sufficiently express what is meant by *equi admisarii*, in which all the ancient versions agree. מִשְׁכִּים is the participle present of מִשַׁךְ *protrahere, extrahere*. מִשְׁכִּים הֵיוּ, *protrahentes erant*.

10.—her branches—] חֲנֻכִּישׁוֹת is thus rendered, Isa. xviii. 5. And by “her branches” may be understood the lesser cities of Judah, which are as it were branches of the capital; and which were of course destined to share in her fate. See ver. 17. Ch. iv. 16. Or else the individuals of the city may be so called; as a city is sometimes considered in the light of a parent, with respect to the citizens, who are called her children or offspring. Compare Ch. xi. 16.—Hence also we may see what is intended by the direction given in the preceding line, “and make ye not an end;” that is, cease not to destroy, till ye have cut off both root and branches. See Ch. iv. 27. The address is here made to the enemies that were to be brought against Jerusalem and Judah, ver. 15.

12. And have said, It is not He—] לֹא הוּא—“Not He;” that is, either he hath not spoken, or, he will not do as the prophets have threatened in his name. Or, they argued like the wicked, who denied God's moral government of the world, Ps. xciv. 7.

For they said, JEHOVAH will not see.

Neither will the God of Jacob regard.

13.—as wind—] “That passeth away, and cometh not again.” Ps. lxxviii. 39. Such seems to be the meaning of those who represented the prophets to be “like wind;” they insinuated thereby, that after the sound of their words was once gone over, they should never hear any thing more of them.

Ibid. And they have no authority to say—] Literally, “And the word is not in them;” meaning the word of prophecy, denouncing such and such calamities against the people.

14.—as wood] The ancient Bodl. MS. No. 1. and three more read

לַעֲצִים, with the ל prefixed. The Vulgate and Chald. seem to have done so too.

15.---a nation from far---] This was threatened in case of disobedience by Moses, Deut. xxviii. 49. Compare Isa v. 26. The antiquity of the Babylonish nation was very great, having been founded by Nimrod, Gen. x. 10.

17. They shall consume thy sons and thy daughters] All the ancient versions so interpret in this place; and with them our old English Translation. It agrees with the prediction of Moses, Deut. xxviii. 32, 41. and with that of Ezekiel, xxiv. 21. But we must read יֹאכְלֵי instead of יֹאכְלוּ, in conformity with the rest of the verse,

18.---I will not make a finishing with you] He means, that he had not yet done with them, but had still more evils in reserve for them. See ver. 10. Ch. iv. 27.

19.---strange gods— Literally, “gods of the stranger.” So Ch. viii. 19. זִמְבֵּלֵי נֶכֶר, “strange vanities,” or idols. And בְּנֵי נֶכֶר, “strange children,” or, “sons of the stranger;” Ps. xviii. 44. Ezek. xliv. 7.

22.---it shall not go beyond it] Here all the ancient versions consider יַעֲבִירָנָהּ as singular; the same word occurs the last in the verse, and there all the ancient versions, except the LXX. render as if they read at large יַעֲבִירֶנָהּ; and it is so represented in two MSS.—The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. likewise appear to have read יִתְנַעַשׂ and יִכְלֵ, instead of יִתְנַעֲשׂוּ and יִכְלוּ; and the Syntax seems to require the verbs in the singular, and subject being יָם, “the sea.” The final ו in both these words was probably a mistake of the transcriber, occasioned by finding the same letter at the beginning of the words next in succession.

24.---both the former---] I have followed the received reading, וַיִּוְרָר; although the Masoretes read וִוְרָר without the conjunction, and so do all the ancient versions, twelve MSS. and three Editions.

Ibid---a sufficiency of the appointed things of harvest] שְׂבַעַת read with the *Sin* instead of the *Schin* signifies *fulness* or *sufficiency*; and so both the LXX. and Vulg. render it. זִמְנֹת signifies not only *set times*, but whatever is regularly assigned or appointed by divine providence; and in this place, the ordinary and regulated productions of harvest.

26. Who lie on the watch like the cowering of fowlers] The LXX. and Syr. totally omit the words יִשּׁוּר כֶּשֶׁךְ, and render יְקוּשִׁים “snares” instead of “fowlers.” But the translation of the Vulgate, *insidiantes quasi aucupes*, at once points out an emendation of the text, and facilitates the explanation of it. For יִשּׁוּר it is probable the original reading was יִשּׁוּרוּ, which coming from שׁוּר, *to look out for prey*, answers to the word *insidiantes* of the Vulgate. שָׁךְ is derived from שָׁכַךְ *to sink down*, or *cower*, as fowlers do when they lay their snares. So that יְקוּשִׁים כֶּשֶׁךְ may literally be rendered, “according to the

cowering of fowlers," the close posture in which they lie in order to conceal themselves.

27. As a trap cage is full of birds—] כלוב comes from כלב, a dog; and this name was undoubtedly given to the trap cage, because it served the same purpose as a dog in assisting to catch game. That sort of trap cage also seems to be alluded to, in which tame birds are put to hop and fly about as a decoy to others.

28. They are waxen fat, and shine] These words are passed over in the LXX. and Syr. But Aquila, Symmachus, Theodotion, the Chaldee, and Vulg. acknowledge them, as do all the collated MSS. The Chald. and Vulg. add the conjunction ו before עשתו.

Ibid. Though they have gone beyond the claims of the wicked] דע דברי seem to signify "the claims of the wicked man," or in the phrase of our law, his *declaration* or *count*; in which the plaintiff states the nature of his case, the quantity of damage sustained by him, and the extent of that redress which he sues for. These words however are omitted by the LXX. who connect דין immediately with עברי, and render, *καὶ ἐπεὶ ἡμεῖς ἐκείνους ἐδικαίωκα*. The Syr. hath also done the same. But in this omission they miss of the very scope of the passage; the design of which is to oppose דע דברי to דין יתום, "the suit of the orphan." and to משפט אביונים, "the right of the poor;" and to observe the undue partiality shewn in the distribution of justice by those who were concerned in it; they even went beyond the terms of the wicked man's declaration, procuring him more than he demanded; but in supporting the just suit of the orphan, and asserting the legal rights of the poor, they were not equally zealous and successful.—The particle גם is used in this sense Neh. vi. 1. and in other places.

Ibid.—so as to make it prosper] This is the true sense of the verb ויצליחו, which is in the conjug. *Hiphil*.

31. And the priests have concurred with them—] Literally, "have descended upon their hands;" that is, either, they have joined hands with them, or, have fallen with the weight of their authority upon the measures introduced by the others. All the ancient Versions have concurred in the general interpretation of these words. The Masoretes have indeed pointed יררו as if it were the future of ירר to bear rule; but the context evidently requires the preter tense, יררו, *descenderunt*, from ירר.

Ibid.—my people have liked it should be so] See Isa. xxx. 10.

Ibid.—And what will ye do in regard to the consequences thereof?] "How will ye guard against, or prevent them?" The form of expression is similar to that used before, Ch. iv. 30. "And against spoiling what wilt, or canst, thou do?" namely, to ward it off, or secure thyself from it.

CHAP. VI.

1. Retire in a body, O ye sons of Benjamin---] Jerusalem was in the lot of the tribe of Benjamin, Josh. xviii. 28. ; on which account the inhabitants are addressed by the name of the children of Benjamin ; and are directed to leave the city, which God was about to destroy, and to take refuge in the mountains. Tekoa, according to Jerome, was a little town about twelve miles from Jerusalem ; and Beth-haccerem (probably so called from the vineyards round about it) another little town on the same side, but nearer Jerusalem ; and both of them in the mountainous parts of Judah, south of the capital. See D'Anville's Map of ancient Palestine.

2. The habitation, even the delightful one.] Jerusalem is in like manner called simply "the habitation," נוֹרָה, Isa. xxvii. 10. And it seems entitled to the name by way of eminence, as the chief residence both of Israel, and of the God of Israel. Accordingly, speaking of the very desolation here intended, the Psalmist says, "They have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place," נוֹרָה. Ps. lxxix. 7. It is also called God's habitation, Exod. xv. 13. & Sam. xv. 25, &c. And with respect to the epithet annexed, "the delightful one," Jerusalem is frequently spoken of in terms that shew it to have been in a very eminent degree the object of delight both with God and with man. It was the city which God chose, 1 Kings viii. 44. the object of his desire, Ps. cxxxii. 13, 14. and of his especial love, Ps. lxxxvii. 2. And how fond the Jews themselves were of it, appears from the expressions of rapture with which they spoke of it, Ps. xlviii. 2. 1. 2. cxxii. 6. and from the grief with which they bemoaned its fall. Ps. cxxxvii. Lam. Ch. i. and ii.

Ibid. I have doomed to destruction] דָּמִיתִי—This word cannot bear the sense in this place, which our Translators have given it, because wherever it signifies to *liken*, it requires a preposition to precede the noun which denotes the object of comparison. Nor does it appear from the context in what particular the daughter of Sion was likened to a comely and delicate woman ; supposing the terms would admit of that construction. I have therefore adopted the other sense of דָּמִיתִי, "I have destroyed," which goes directly to the point ; the persons by whom, and the manner in which, this destruction was to be accomplished, being immediately subjoined in the words that follow. It properly means, "I have doomed, or decreed, her destruction ;" for with God to decree and to do is one and the same thing ; the past and future being contemplated alike in the divine mind, and both equally certain as to the accomplishment.

3. And they shall pitch] The LXX. and Syr. seem to have read יוֹקְעוּ, the Chald. יוֹקְעוּ, and one of them at least was in all probability the true reading ; as was also יוֹקְעוּ, the reading of the LXX. Syr. and Chaldee, and of two MSS. for יוֹקְעוּ. The shepherds and their

flocks were no doubt the Babylonian chiefs with their troops besieging Jerusalem.

4. Arise, and let us go up at noonday—] The alacrity and eagerness with which the Chaldeans undertake and execute the commission, with which they were charged, is described in this and the following verse in a beautiful vein of poetry. Though it was late in the day before they received their orders, they are for beginning their march immediately; and though it was night before they got to the place, they are unwilling to put off the assault till morning.

6.---her timber] That is, to be employed in the siege. See Deut. xx. 19. where the same word עֲצוֹר is used as here. Two MSS. read עֲצִיר; but the singular number is equally expressive.

Ibid.---ripe for visitation] חֲפֹקֵר is the infinitive in *Niphal*, and חֲפִיָּא חֲפֹקֵר may literally be rendered, "She is the city to be visited;" that is, a proper object of punishment; the reason of which follows in the next words.

Ibid. Every kind of oppression is in the midst of her.] For עֶשֶׂק בֵּלִי read חֲעֶשֶׂק בֵּלִי.

7. As a fountain---] The Masoretes read בֵּיר for בּוֹר, and so do eleven MSS. and four Editions. But Houbigant conjectures it should rather be בְּאֵר, which in the pronunciation resembles בֵּיר. But both in Chaldee and Arabic בֵּיר signifies "a fountain."

Ibid. Sickness and smiting---] חֲלִי וּמַכּוֹת. These two words are an *Hendiadys*, and signify, "sickness occasioned by blows."

9. Turn again thine hand - - - unto the baskets] That is, take them again into thine hand, and begin the work of gathering, or gleaning, anew. The address is from God to the Chaldeans, exhorting them, like a grapegatherer, to return again after the first time, and pick up those few inhabitants that were left before, like the grape gleanings, and to carry them also into captivity. The Chaldeans did so, as may be seen Ch. lii. 28, 29, 30.

11. Therefore the wrath of JEHOVAH, with which I am filled---] חֲמַת דָּהֵם appears to me to be the accusative case in the order of Syntax following the verb שָׂפַךְ, with an ellipsis of the relative אֲשֶׁר before מִלְּאִתִּי.

Ibid.---the children in the street---] That is was the custom for children to be playing in the streets, see Zech. viii. 5. and compare Ch. ix. 21. It is also natural for young men to associate in private parties, and there to concert their plans of operation together. סוֹר signifies properly such a private consultation or cabal.

Ibid.---the aged with him that is full of days.] From hence it appears that זָקֵן means only a man that has passed a certain time of life, which may be considered as his Zenith, so as from thenceforth to be upon the decline. In contradistinction to whom is placed one, who is arrived at what is esteemed the full period of human life; in respect to which the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, David, and Job, are said to

have died "full of years" or "days." See the same distinction made, Isa. lxxv. 20.

13.—is wholly addicted to his lust—] בצע I take to signify "evil concupiscence" or "lust" in general, in the same extensive sense as *πληonexia* is used by the writers of the N. T. for any irregular or inordinate desire, which impels us to sinful action. See Ch. xxii. 17. li. 18. Ps. cxix. 36. Isa. lvi. 11. lvii. 17. &c. &c.

14.—of the daughter of my people] The LXX. read only, "of my people," *συγγενεῖς τοῦ λαοῦ μου*; and בַּת is totally omitted in fifteen MSS. and nine Editions; in four MSS. it is erased; and in one MS. it is upon a rasure. But it is expressed in all the other ancient versions, as it appears also in the parallel passage, Ch. viii. 11.

15. Were they ashamed—] חובישו—Seventeen MSS. and one Edition here read חבישו. In the parallel passage, Ch. viii. 12. the reading of the text in Van der Hooght's Edition is חבשו; but twenty four MSS. and three Editions read there חובישו; sixteen MSS. and two Editions חבישו; one MS. חבושו. The true reading I take to be חבשו, instead of which some transcriber, mistaking the interrogative particle ח for the characteristic of the conjugation *Hiphil*, inserted ו and י conformably to such mistake.

Ibid.—to blush] For חכלית we should read here as in the parallel passage חלל. This is also the reading of eight MSS. one of which is the ancient Bodleian, No. 1. חכלית is in *Hiphil*, and signifies to *cause* or *put to shame*; which is not the sense here required.

Ibid.—shall they fall one after another] Literally, "they shall fall upon, or after, the fallen."

Ibid.—of their visitation—] In the parallel passage, Ch. viii. 12. the reading of the text is פקדות; it is so here in six MSS. and according to the LXX. and Vulgate versions.

16.—a restoration—] I cannot find what connexion the verb חרגיע, from whence comes the noun מרגיע, has with *rest*, that is, the cessation of motion and activity. The root רגע seems to imply quite the contrary. The Arabic verb رَجَعَ signifies, *redit, reversus est*; correspondently with which חרגיע in *Hiphil* would signify, to *cause to return, bring back, restore*. And it seems to me, that wherever this verb and its conjugates occur in the Hebrew text, the idea of *restoring* or *causing to return* will be found more suitable than that of the *rest*. Accordingly I have here rendered מרגיע לנפשכם, "a restoration of your souls," or "lives;" which were indeed forfeited and lost in consequence of their former sins, but which God promises should be restored and preserved to them on condition of their amendment.

The same word in effect may likewise be rendered in the same manner, Isa. xxviii. 12. וזאת חמרגיעו, "And this the restoration;" that is, the means of restoring you to God's favour, which ye had lost all claim to.—Again, Isa. xxxiv. 14. the idea of *rest* would be very ill applied to חרגיעו. For would it not be a very unmeaning tautology to say, that "there the screech owl should rest, and find herself a resting place?" Whereas it might with great propriety be said,

There shall the screech owl cause to return,
And shall find unto herself, a place of rest.

For here "shall cause to return and shall find" forms a kind of *Hendiadys*, and imports, "shall recover," or "shall find again" what had been once quitted or lost; an idiom very similar to that by which "to return and to do" means to do a thing over again. Almost the same phrase occurs Deut. xxviii. 65. חֲרִיבִיעַ וְלֹא יִחְיֶה מְנוּחַ לְכַף רַגְלֶךָ, literally, "thou shalt not cause to return, nor shall there be, a resting place unto the sole of thy foot," that is, thou shalt never regain such a resting place.—Again, Isa. li. 4. after saying,

For a law from me shall proceed,
how fitly does it follow in the next hemistich,
And my judgment will I restore (אֲרִבִּיעַ) for a light unto the Gentiles.

By "my judgment" is clearly meant that rule of moral conduct, which God originally impressed upon the hearts and consciences of all men; but which having been darkened and almost obliterated by human depravity, God was pleased to "restore" to them again by a new promulgation in the Gospel.—And I wish it may be considered whether the following translation of Prov. xii. 19. does not recommend itself.

The lip of truth shall be established for a witness,
But a lying tongue is a witness which I shall reject.

עֵד אֲרִבִּיעַ—"I shall cause him to return," whenever he offers himself as a witness. As it is undoubtedly the part of a wise and upright judge to turn back, and not to admit the evidence of one, who is notorious for falsehood.—Other instances occur in this book, all serving to confirm the same general idea, as will be hereafter remarked in the Notes on Ch. xxxi. 2. xlvii. 6. xlix. 19. l. 34. 44.

17. And I will set over you watchmen] Our Translators have supplied the word "saying" after "watchmen;" but it is not wanting. God declares his intention of sending watchmen to give timely warning to his people; and at the same time exhorts them to pay due attention to the warning so given them by sound of trumpet, as the manner of watchmen was in making public proclamation of the enemy's approach. By "watchmen" are meant God's prophets; See Ezek. iii. 17. xxxiii. 2—9. Isa. lviii. 1. These were accordingly sent, and did give warning; but the people were as good as their word; they did not hearken. See Ch. xxv. 3---7.

18. Wherefore hear, O nations, &c.] The connecting of עַמֵּי with the words preceding is recommended by the parallelism thereby established. For by "the congregation" is meant the congregation of Israel, God's people; and these joined with the heathen nations are just equivalent to "the earth."

19.---their own imaginations] For מַחְשַׁבֹּת, which is in the singular number, thirty one MSS. four Editions, and the margin of Van der Hooght's bible, read מַחְשַׁבוֹת in the plural; and this is agree-

able to the Syr. Chald. and Vulgate. The LXX. seem to have read **שְׁבֹשֶׁבֶת**, *σποσροφης αυτων*.

20.---[the rich aromatic reed---] The *Calamus aromaticus* is a reed of a very fragrant smell, which when cut down, dried, and powdered, becomes an ingredient in the richest perfumes. It is spoken of Isa. xliii. 24. as being costly, and applied to sacred uses. Theophrastus, Hist. plant. lib. ix. c. 7. and Pliny after him, Hist. Nat. lib. xii. sect. 48. say, that this reed, and that of the very best sort too, grew in Syria near mount Libanus. But, had this been the case, I hardly suppose the Jews would have taken the trouble of fetching it from "a far country," when they could have procured it in their own neighbourhood. It is most probable, that this reed, as well as the frankincense, came to them from Saba where it grew, as we are informed by Strabo, lib. xvi. p. 778. and by Diod. Sic. lib. iii. p. 125. Edit. Rhodomanni. Pliny also in the place above cited speaks of it as a native of Arabia; and Dionysius in his *Περιηγσεις* enumerates it among the fragrant productions of that country.

Ἄλλο δὲ τοὶ καὶ θάυμα μὲν' ἐξοχὸν ἑλλαχ' ἐκεῖ
 Ἄν κηρύσσῃ θύοις ὑπὸ λαρεὶν ὀδυδιῶν,
 Ἡ θύμ, ἡ σμυρνης, ἡ ΕΥΘΑΜΟΥ ΚΑΛΑΜΟΙΟ,
 Ἡ καὶ θισπυσίαι πεπαινομένη λιβαρίαι,
 Ἡ κασιγῆς ———

ver. 935, &c.

Saba, we know, was situate towards the southern extremity of the peninsula of Arabia; so that it was indeed with respect to Judea "a far country," as it is also said to be, Joel iii. 8. And our Saviour speaking of its queen, whom he calls "the queen of the south," says that she came *αὐτῶν περσῶν τῆς γῆς*, "from the extreme parts of the earth." Matt. xii. 42.

21. Together shall the inhabitant and his companion perish] "The hemistichs seem to require that **יָדוּד** should be thus connected." Dr DURELL.——Twenty MSS. and four Editions read with the Masora, **יָדוּד וְאֶבְרָהָם**; but the ancient versions agree with the present reading, which seems preferable.

22.---[a great nation - - - from the extremities of the earth] See Ch. l. 41, 42. Isa. v. 26---30.

23. In orderly array---] **יָרָע**---This seems to be the participle *Pa-hul* used adverbially, as in Latin *ordinate* from *ordinatus*. Or at least it must, I think, be considered so, Ch. l. 42. although here it may be the participle in agreement with **גִּי** in the preceding verse, as well as **חַוִּי** **חַוִּי**, which are also in the singular number, whilst the intermediate verbs are all plural in regard to the plural sense of the subject.

25. Go ye not forth---] The Masoretes here read **וְלֹא תֵצְאוּ** and **וְלֹא תֵצְאוּ**, and all the ancient versions concur in the same. Thirteen MSS. and two Editions countenance **וְלֹא תֵצְאוּ**, and seventeen MSS. and two Editions read **וְלֹא תֵצְאוּ**.

26.---[gird on sackcloth---] As the wearing of sackcloth girt round

the body next the flesh (see 2 Kings vi. 30.) is often mentioned in Scripture as usual in times of mourning and lamentation, and appears, according to our notions, a very harsh kind of discipline ; it may not be amiss to take notice once for all what kind of sackcloth is meant. Mr Harmer cites Sir John Chardin's MS. to shew, that the sacks used by travellers in the east for carrying their necessities with them were made of coarse wool, guarded with leather ; and then proceeds to infer with great probability, that " if the sacks were woollen, the sackcloth, with which the Eastern people were wont to clothe themselves at particular times, means coarse woollen cloth, such as they made sacks of, and neither haircloth, nor rough harsh cloth of hemp, as we may have been ready to imagine ; for it is the same Hebrew word which signifies *sacks* that is translated *sackcloth*. And as the people of very remote antiquity commonly wore no linen, there was not that affectation in what they put on in times of humiliation, as we in the west may perhaps have apprehended. They only put on very coarse mean woollen garments, instead of those that were finer, but of the same general nature." Harmer's Observ. Ch. V. Obs. iv.---Sitting or lying down in ashes was another custom observed on the like occasions. See Esth. iv. 3. Job ii. 8. xlii. 6. Isa. lviii. 5. Jonah iii. 6. &c. &c.

27. I have appointed thee to make an assay, &c.] The images of " a tower" and " a fortress," which our translators have here introduced, seem very foreign to this place. The LXX. and Vulgate have rendered בִּדּוֹן, δοκιμασας, *probatores*, which signifies an *Assayer* or *Trier*, from בִּדּוֹן, to *try* ; but as the word is בִּדּוֹן, and not בִּדּוֹן, perhaps it may rather mean " the office" or " business of assaying," being either the infinitive of the verb, which implies the action itself, and not the agent ; or a noun immediately formed from thence. As for מִבְּצָר, Dr DURELL has suggested, that it is a compound of the preposition מ, and בִּצָּר, *gold* ; and proposes to render, " I have appointed thee to try my people beyond (or more than) gold." But מ has sometimes the force of *DE*, *concerning*, or, *in regard to* ; and the ו which now precedes מִבְּצָר, where it is not at all necessary, but rather unsuitable, as it would act with a conversive force, I think may be joined to מִבְּצָר, reading מִבְּצָרוֹ, and rendering thus, " I have appointed thee the office of an assaymaster among my people as to the gold thereof ;" that is, to try what is in them of genuine worth and excellence, which like pure gold will stand the utmost test. How well this agrees with the following context, is obvious enough.

28.---the dross of revolvers---] For מְרִי, which can afford no good sense, twenty one MSS. and one Edition read שְׂרִי, and the Syr. Chald. and Vulg. accordingly interpret, " princes," or, " chief of revolvers." But I think from considering the context, and comparing a passage nearly parallel to this, Ezek. xxii. 18, 19, 20. it is almost certain that we should read מֶגֶץ, " the dross," or " alloy," that is found in the fine metals. The wicked are frequently designed by this comparison ; Ps. cxix. 119. Prov. xxv. 4. Isa. i. 22, 25.

Ibid.---Passing with a fraudulent currency] חֲלִי רִבִּי---The verb

רַכִּיל signifies to *go about buying and selling to advantage*; but רַכִּיל, which I take to be an adverb, joined with חֹלֵךְ is constantly used in a bad sense. Our Translators have rendered these words, "talebearers," or persons "walking with slanders." But I can see no reason, in any of the passages where they occur, to consider them as signifying any thing else than what we understand by the word, *sharpers*, persons that go about practising imposition wherever they can make advantage of it. So that having in view the metaphor of "dross," or impure alloy, I think we may fairly render חֹלְכֵי רַכִּיל in this place, as expressed in the version.

Ibid. Instruments of adulteration] Forty five MSS. (of which seven are ancient) and six Editions read מְשַׁחֲתִים, "adulterating" which seems right; for brass and iron are the baser metals, used to adulterate the pure silver. The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. seem however to have read מְשַׁחֲתִים, the passive participle in *Hophal*, "corrupted" or "adulterated;" and so do three MSS.

29.---by the fire] For מֵאֶשֶׁתּוֹ the Masoretes with twenty one MSS. three old Editions, and the LXX. and Vulgate versions, divide and read, מֵאֵשׁ חַם.

Ibid. The lead is entirely spent] Before the use of quicksilver was known, the refiners used lead to separate the silver from the other substances mixed with it. So we learn from Pliny, Nat. Hist. Lib. xxxiii. sect. 31. "Excoqui (argentum) non potest, nisi cum plumbo nigro, aut cum vena plumbi."

Ibid. The refiner hath melted---] For צָרוּךְ we should read by transposition צֹרֵךְ. So the ancient versions all agree; and nine MSS. read צֹרֵךְ, where the *Gholem* is sunk, and one צָרוּךְ, where it is expressed at large.

Ibid.---the bad are not separated.] By רַעִים, "the bad," are meant according to the metaphor the base ingredients; that is, the bad principles and habits, which prevail so much, and adhere so closely, that all the endeavours and pains used by the refiner to purge them away, and get clear of them, are frustrated and prove ineffectual; so that, as it follows in the next verse, nothing remains but to throw them aside as a metal disallowed and cried down by authority, counterfeiting silver, but not capable of being brought to the sterling standard.

CHAP. VII.

A new prophecy begins with this Chapter, and is continued on to the end of Chap. x. The date is not precisely marked, but the probability is, that it was delivered not long after the preceding one, and, as it should seem, on the following occasion. Besides the prophets who were commissioned to announce the approaching calamities of Judah and Jerusalem, there were others who took upon themselves to flatter the people with opposite predictions. They taught them to look upon such threats as groundless, since God, they said, would have too much

regard for his own honour, to suffer his temple to be profaned, and the seat of his holiness to be given up into the hand of strangers. Jeremiah is therefore commanded openly to reprove the falsehood of these assertions, and to shew by an example in point, that the sanctity of the place would afford no security to the guilty; but that God would assuredly do by his house at Jerusalem what he had done unto Shiloh; and cast the people of Judah out of his sight, as he had already cast off the people of Israel, for their wickedness, v. 1---19. God justifies the severity of his proceedings by a representation of his people's impiety, v. 17---20. The prophet declares their sacrifices to be of no acceptance, whilst they continued deaf to the calls of God's messengers, v. 21---28. He specifies the gross idolatries with which they were defiled; and pronounces a heavy sentence of divine vengeance both on the dead and on the living; v. 29---Ch. viii. 3.

1, 2. The word which came, &c.] These two verses are omitted in the LXX. except the words, "Hear ye the word of JEHOVAH, all Judah." But the whole is acknowledged by the other versions, and by all the collated MSS, with a few slight variations.

3. And I will dwell among you] So the Vulgate renders אֶתְכֶם וְאֶשְׁכְּנֶה, and rightly, as I think, especially as the temple was in view, the place of God's residence. See Exod. xxv. 8. xxix. 45. 1 Kings vi. 13. Ezek. xliii. 7, 9. Zech. ii. 10, 11.

4---in those that speak falsehood] וְרִבִּי I conceive to be the participle in this place; of which similar instances occur, Ps. v. 6. xxviii. 3. lxiii. 11. &c.---The Targum intimates, that the reason of the repetition of the words, "The temple of JEHOVAH," three times, was because every Jew was obliged to visit the temple thrice a year. Perhaps we may rather represent to ourselves the speakers as standing before the temple, and pointing to the different parts of the building in front, and on each wing, and saying severally of them, What you see here is the temple of JEHOVAH. Just as our Saviour's disciples, immediately after their Lord had been foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem, came to him, and with similar notions in their heads (as from our Saviour's reply may be collected) pointed out to him the magnificent buildings of the temple. Matt. xxiv. 1, 2.

10. Deliver us---] So I think it best to render נַצִּלֵנוּ as the imperative singular in *Pihel*, with the affix of the first person plural. God re-proves the impiety of those, who were for making him an accomplice in their wicked deeds by desiring his patronage and protection for the authors of them; and who were for considering his house as an asylum and refuge for the worst of criminals.

11. Even I, behold, I have seen, saith JEHOVAH] In these words God declares that the wicked actions of men do not pass unnoticed by him; but that he sees them with the eye of a vigilant and just Governor, who will not permit such misconduct to pass off with impunity, whatever miscreants may think of him. Ps. xciv. 7---9.

12. But go now to my place which was in Shiloh] Shiloh was the

place, where upon the first coming of the Israelites into Canaan the tabernacle, in which was the ark of God's presence, was set up, by divine appointment no doubt ; and there it continued for a long space of time until the days of Samuel. It was during this residence, that the Israelites received that signal defeat from the Philistines, when the ark of God was taken, as related 1 Sam. iv. 10, 11. the pathetic description of which disaster made by the Psalmist, Ps. lxxviii. 60---64. has caused it to be generally believed, that an allusion to it was likewise designed upon this occasion. But a due consideration of the context will, I think, lead us rather to conclude in favour of a more recent event, the vestiges of which were still fresh to be seen. Shiloh was in the tribe of Ephraim, and this place, once so favoured and sanctified by God's particular residence, had shared the fate of the rest of the kingdom of Israel, and was become a scene of misery and ruin. This they might literally "go and see" at present ; and this, says God, "have I done because of the wickedness of my people Israel." In which words Israel, meaning the ten tribes, is acknowledged to have been God's people no less than Judah ; and Shiloh, it is observed, had once enjoyed the same privileges, which now belonged to the temple at Jerusalem. But as God spared not Shiloh, but made it the victim of his wrath ; so he says he would do to Jerusalem and her temple ; and would cast off Judah for their wickedness from being his people, in like manner as he had already cast off their brethren, whom he distinguishes by the name of the children of Ephraim.

15.---all your brethren] The LXX. have omitted כל before אחיכֶּם, and it is also omitted in one MS. of good note. But all the other ancient versions, and the rest of the collated MSS. retain it.

18.---for the regency of the heavens] Our translators here render לְמַלְכַּת הַשָּׁמַיִם "for the queen of heaven," after the Vulgate ; by which no doubt they meant the moon ; but the other versions render, "the host of heaven," or something to that effect, including at least all the principal of the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon, and planets. And this sense may, I think, in some sort be applied to מַלְכוּת or מַלְכֻת, supposing it to stand by a common metonymy, the office for those that bear it. For it is a term nearly synonymous to מִמְשָׁלָה which signifies *dominion, rule, or superiority* of some kind ; and this latter word is used concerning the chief luminaries in the heavens, which God is said to have made לְמִמְשָׁלָה to "rule" or "preside" there by day and by night. Gen. i. 16. Ps. cxxxvi. 8, 9. So that לְמַלְכַּת may not improperly be rendered "the regency" or hierarchy of the heavens.---But it must be noticed also, that nineteen MSS. some of which are of the greatest antiquity, and perhaps two more, together with two Editions, one of which is the first printed Bible, the other the celebrated *Complutensian*, read לְמַלְאכָה ; and as מַלְאָךְ properly signifies *a delegated agent*, מַלְאָכָה or מַלְאָכֻת may by a like metonymy as before denote the very same heavenly bodies, which under the divine commission perform certain stated functions in the heavens. And this sense would perfectly correspond with the term frequently used to denote the sun, moon,

and stars, namely, "the host of heaven," because they move regularly in their respective spheres, as a marshalled army, punctually obeying the orders of their almighty sovereign and commander. See Ch. xlv. 17—19.

21. Add your burntofferings, &c.] The import of these words is plainly this; that they were left at full liberty to take both their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices, that is, the beasts designed for those purposes, and to eat their flesh as common food; for that God did not desire to have any thing to do with them.

22.—I brought them out—] The Masora here reads **וְיוֹצִיאֵי**, which is extremely proper; ninety five MSS. and five Editions confirm this reading, besides four MSS. which have a letter erased at the end of **וְיוֹצִיאֵ**, and two which read **וְיוֹצִיאֵי**.

Ibid.—for the sake of burntoffering] **עַל-דְּבַר** and **עַל-דְּבָרִי** signify "for the sake" of any thing, or out of regard to it; as **עַל** of itself has the force of the Latin preposition, *propter*. And hence the true sense of this passage may fairly be deduced. For God certainly did speak unto the people when he brought them out of Egypt, and gave them many positive ordinances concerning burntoffering and sacrifices. But it is as certain, that God did not command these things purely on their own account, but as a means to some other more valuable end. Moral goodness and religious obedience were the scope he aimed at, the supreme object of his desire and delight. And in this light the words may be understood positively (and not in a comparative sense, as is generally supposed) not only here, but elsewhere; as Ps. li. 16. "Thou desirest not sacrifice, else would I give it; thou delightest not in burntoffering." And again, Hos. vi. 6. "I desired mercy, and not sacrifice." And 1 Sam. xv. 22. "Hath JEHOVAH delight in burntofferings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of JEHOVAH?" The latter is the immediate object of his satisfaction, and gives him real pleasure; the former he esteems not, nor regards in the least, for their own sake, but so far only as they are instances of religious faith and obedience.

24. And drew backward—] The Metaphor is taken from refractory oxen, which, when put to the yoke, pull back their necks, and will not draw as they are directed. See Hos. iv. 16.

25.—Even unto this day] The LXX. and Syr. prefix the conjunction **ו** before **עַד**; and six MSS. also read **וְעַד**.

26. But they have not hearkened unto me] All the MSS. read **אֵלַי**, and the ancient versions agree in it; for which reason I make no alteration. But I cannot help suggesting that **אֵלֵינוּ** *these* may not improbably have been the original and true reading; some such word being wanting to distinguish the generation of which the prophet was speaking from their fathers; in which case we might render,

But neither have these hearkened,
Nor inclined, &c.

29. Shave off thy Nazarite locks, and cast them away] **נִזְרִי** literally signifies no more than "thy separation," or "thy Nazariteship;" but is here put for the hair of the head, which was the sign of that state

of separation. For a Nazarite was one who by a special vow had separated himself, or set himself apart for a time from all worldly connexions, to attend upon the service of God only; Numb. vi. 2. Under these circumstances he was to let the hair of his head grow, ver. 5. and when the days of his vow were fulfilled, he was then to shave his head at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, ver. 18. in a solemn and public manner, to notify that he was no longer in his former state of separation. But the shaving of the head was also, as we frequently find, a concomitant sign of great mourning and affliction. See Bp. Lowth's note on Isa. xv. 2. and also Ch. xvi. 6. xlviii. 37. Job i. 20. Both these customs are probably alluded to in the passage before us. But the question, is to whom these words are addressed. The verbs נָוִי, דָּשַׁלְיָכִי, and שָׂאִי, are all feminine; but there is not a feminine subject expressed throughout the whole chapter, to which they can be applied; nor any ground of authority, that I can find, for supplying, "O Jerusalem," as our Translators with some others have done. Houbigant therefore conjectures that for נָוִי and שָׂאִי we should read נָוִי or נָוִי, and שָׂאִי; and דָּשַׁלְיָכִי, "cast it away," with the affix, instead of דָּשַׁלְיָכִי; for which last word we actually find דָּשַׁלְיָכִי in three MSS. Admitting these emendations, which the text seems absolutely to require, the words may then be considered as a call to mourning addressed to the prophet himself, who was a Nazarite in virtue of his office, and most pathetically complied with the tenor of the command; or, which I am rather inclined to think, they are a continuation of the divine message, which the prophet was in the preceding verse directed to deliver to the Jewish nation; a nation notorious for their disobedience to the voice of God; and therefore enjoined to regard themselves no longer as his peculiar people, but to lament grievously, as they had reason, the unhappy change they were about to experience in his entire rejection of them.

Ibid.—the open plains] שְׂפֵיכִי—See Note on Ch. iv. 11. Perhaps the waste country may be here alluded to, through which the Jews had to pass in their journeying to the place of their captivity, after God had cast them off. Compare Ch. iii. 21.

Ibid.—his people] One MS. expresses אֶת עַמּוֹ, and another עַמּוֹ after יִהְיוּ. The parallelism of the hemistichs affords an argument in favour of this reading. See Bp. Lowth's Preliminary Dissert. p. xxxvii. &c.

Ibid.—the generation of his wrath.] This is easily understood to signify a race of men obnoxious to God's wrath; in the same sense the apostle speaks of "the children of wrath." Eph. ii. 3.

30.—have set their abominations in the house] This has reference to what was done by Manasseh; 2 Kings xxiii. 4, 5, 7. xxiii. 4. and compare Ch. xxiii. 11. xxxi. 34.

31.—the high places of Topheth—] The valley of Hinnom, or of the son of Hinnom, was near Jerusalem, and was the scene of those horrid sacrifices, which the Israelites in imitation of their idolatrous neighbours made of their children to Moloch. Topheth was the parti-

cular spot in the valley, where the fires were made, into which the poor innocent victims were thrown; and is supposed to have derived its name from the drums and tabrets, that were beaten in order to drown the childrens cries. The high places, *במות*, were in all probability artificial mounts or *tumuli*, thrown up about the place for the purpose of performing some of the rites, with which these sacrifices were accompanied; or from which the persons assembled might command a view of the dreadful spectacle.

Ibid.—which I commanded not, nor was it acceptable unto me] God shews a particular solicitude to vindicate himself and his religion from having any thing to do, either by way of command or goodliking, with a worship so cruel, and so shocking to all our ideas of divine goodness and benevolence. No such thing, he says, was to be found among the ordinances which he had prescribed, nor was it what he could find in his heart to accept; literally, “it came not over his heart;” or gained no admission there. See note on Ch. iii. 16. Indeed this was speaking by a figure which implies more than is expressed; for he had strictly prohibited any such practices in his code of laws, and expressed the utmost abhorrence and detestation of them. “Thou shalt not do so unto JEHOVAH thy God; for every abomination to JEHOVAH, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burned in the fire to their gods.” Deut. xii. 31.

CHAP. VIII.

1—3. These three first verses ought not to have been separated from those of the preceding Chapter.

1.—shall they cast forth] *וַיִּצְיָאוּ*—The Masoretes properly reject the initial *ו*. Nineteen MSS. with the first printed Bible, and the margin of another old Edition, read also *וַיִּצְיָאוּ*. Twenty MSS. read *וַיִּצְיָאוּ*, which appears to be a transposition of the two first letters. Two MSS. read *וַיִּצְיָאוּ*.

We learn from Josephus (Ant. Lib. vii. Cap. ult.) that king Solomon laid up vast treasures in his father's sepulchre, which remained untouched till the pontificate of Hyrcanus, who on a public emergency opened one of the cells, and took out at once three thousand talents of silver. And afterwards Herod the great opened another cell, out of which he also took considerable wealth. Whether the Chaldeans had any notion of this particular deposit, or whether they were tempted by a prevailing custom of burying valuable things together with the bodies of the deceased, doth not appear. But it is here foretold, that at the taking of Jerusalem the lawless soldiery should break open the monuments of the great, and scatter the bones abroad, without concerning themselves to cover them again. And that this was no uncommon practice at the sacking of cities, may be learned from Horace, Epod. avi. 13.

Quæque carent ventis et solibus ossa Quirini,
(Nefas videre) dissipabit insolens.

3. Those that are left—] **וְנִשְׁאָרִים**—This word I consider as standing in opposition to the preceding word, **וְנִשְׁאָרִית**, and exegetic of it ; and not governed by it in the genitive case, as represented in our English version, “the residue of those that are left,” which is a mere tautology, “the remainder of those that remain.” **וְנִשְׁאָרִים** appears a second time in the text after **וְנִשְׁאָרִית** ; but it is omitted in the Bodleian MS. No. 1. and in the LXX. and Syr. versions. In the Vulgate it is likewise expressed but once ; but the omission is there in the first instance.

4.] In that part of the prophecy which follows next the difference of speakers requires to be attended to ; the transitions being quick and sudden, but full of life and energy. The prophet at first in the name of God reproves the people’s incorrigibility ; he charges their wise ones with folly, and threatens them with grievous calamities ; v. 4—13. In the three next verses he seems to apostrophize his countrymen in his own person, and as one of the people that dwelt in the open towns, advising those that were in the like situation to retire with him into some of the fortified cities, and there wait the event with patience ; since there was nothing but terror abroad, and the noise of the enemy, who had already begun to ravage the country, v. 14.—16. God speaks v. 17. and threatens to bring foes against them that should be irresistible. The prophet appears again in his own person, commiserating the daughter of his people, who is heard bewailing her forlorn case in a distant land ; whilst the voice of God, like that of conscience, breaks in upon her complaints, and shews her that all this ruin is brought upon her by her own infidelities ; v. 18.—20. The prophet once more resumes his discourse ; he regrets that no remedy can be found to close up the wounds of his country, and pathetically weeps over the number of her slain ; v. 21.—Ch. ix. 1.

4. Shall they that fall not rise again ?] The verbs in this verse, both plural and singular, are used indefinitely, having no determinate subject. The meaning of this verse taken in connexion with the two next seems to be, that since reformation and amendment were not things in their own nature impossible, the people were inexcusable in persisting in their revolt, without shewing the least disposition to return to their allegiance ; whilst God on his part was ready to have received them on their repentance.

6.—on full speed] For **בְּמַרוּצוֹתָם** the Masoretes read **בְּמַרוּצָתָם** ; so do nineteen MSS. with the oldest edition of the whole Bible, and another in the margin. Eight read **בְּמַרְצָתָם**. On the other hand three MSS. and the first printed copy of the prophetic books read **בְּמַרוּצוֹתָם**. But read whichever we will, the word, I am persuaded, ought to be divided into two, **בְּמַרְצוֹ תָם**, or **בְּמַרוֹץ תָם** ; and for **כָּל־הָשָׁב** we should read **כָּל־הָשָׁב**, and render, “Every one that turneth away is at the top of his speed,” or “runneth on full speed,” *in cursu suo absolutus est*. See instances of two words improperly united, ver. 18. and Ch. vi. 29.

7.—and the crane] Fourteen MSS. and five Editions read with the **מָגוֹרָא** **וְסִיס**. See Bp. Lowth’s note on Isa. xxxviii. 14.

Ibid.—the judgment of JEHOVAH] His law, or system of laws ; that rule of moral conduct which God prescribed for their observance ; and which he furnished them with the means of knowing as certainly, as those birds of passage are taught by what we call natural instinct all that is convenient for them. See Isa. i. 3.

8. Surely the false pen of scribes hath converted these into falsehood] The nature of the English language, which usually requires the nominative to precede the verb, will not easily admit the hemistichs to proceed here in the same order as in the original—**וְזוֹרֵר** should not be rendered, *behold*, but *these*, namely, the light of natural understanding, and the assistance of a revealed law ; on both which the Jews valued themselves. But these advantages, they are told, were in a great measure lost to them through the false glosses of those that took upon them to expound the sacred text. These are understood to have been called Scribes, *Writers*, from their usually delivering their instructions in writing. And hence the propagation of error by their means is ascribed to their “ false pen.”

10. Their fields to those that shall enter into possession] **וְרָשׁ** properly signifies to possess that which was the property of others, and therefore implies a dispossession of the former owners. One MS. with the LXX. and Syr. place the conjunction **וְ** before **שְׂדֵהֵיהֶם**.

Ibid. from the prophet—] Twelve MSS. and two Editions with the LXX. and Syr. read **וּמִנְבִּיאַם**, with the conjunction, as in the parallel place, Ch. vi. 13. Also six MSS. and one Edition read **כָּלִי** for **כָּלִיר** in the first instance ; and in the second, seven MSS. and two more in the margin, do the same.

11. And they have healed] Four MSS. and the oldest Edition of the Bible read here **וַיִּרְפְּאוּ**, as Ch. vi. 14.

12. Were they ashamed, &c.] See the note on Ch. vi. 15.

13. I will utterly consume them---] **אֶמְסֵה אֹתָם**—I take **אֶמְסֵה** to be one of those words where the **א** has been put by mistake for the Characteristic **ו**, of which instances have been already given in the Note on Ch. iv. 19. We should therefore read **אֶמְסֵה** the infinitive *Hiphil* from **סָוָה** ; from whence **אֶמְסֵה**, the first person future of the same conjugation.--The failing of grapes on the vine, and of figs on the figtree, and the withering of the leaf, I conceive metaphorically to signify, that the nation should be deprived of all their real advantages, and also of what was ornamental, by a severe dispensation of God's providence.

14.---let us wait in silence] **נִמְנָם** implies forbearing to act, as well as to speak. The prophet therefore hereby seems to advise not to take measures of resistance, as they would be ineffectually employed against what God had determined.

Ibid.---hemlock] So our translators have rendered **שִׁנְהַרְהַר**, Hos. x. 4. Amos vi. 12. And it is evident from Dent. xxix. 18. that some herb or plant is meant by it of a malignant or nauseous kind at least, being there joined with *wormwood*; and in the margin of our Bibles explain-

ed to be a very poisonous herb." In like manner see Ch. ix. 15. xiii. 15. In Ps. lxxix. 21. which is justly considered as a prophecy of our Saviour's sufferings, it is said, "They gave me **שֶׁמֶר** to eat;" which the LXX have rendered *χολην*, *gall*. And accordingly it is recorded in the History, Matt. xxvii. 34. "They gave him vinegar to drink, mingled with gall," *οξος μετα χολης*. But in the parallel passage, Mark xv. 23. it is said to be *εσμουρισμένου οινου*, "wine mingled with myrrh," a very bitter ingredient. From whence I am induced to think that *χολη*, and perhaps **שֶׁמֶר**, may be used as a general name for whatever is exceedingly bitter; and consequently, where the sense requires it, may be put specially for any bitter herb or plant, the infusion of which may be called **שֶׁמֶר-מַי**.

15. We look for peace] All the ancient versions have rendered **קוּר** by a verb in the first person plur. of the preter tense, both here and Ch. xiv. 19. But this is clearly no literal version; for **קוּר** is the infinitive mood, which is often changed into, or used for a noun: so that **קוּר לְשָׁלוֹם** literally signifies "a looking for peace." But as the preceding words, **כִּי חָשָׁאנוּ לִיחֻדָּךְ**, ought, I am persuaded, to be taken in connection with the following context, rather than with that which goes before them, we may from thence be justified in supplying **לְנוּ קוּר לְשָׁלוֹם**, and so render, "We look for peace," *est nobis expectatio pacis*; and the whole sentence will express the state of anxiety and terror into which the people were fallen in consequence of their sins. See the parallel passage, Ch. xiv. 19.

16. From Dan—] Grotius observes after Jerome, that Nebuchadnezzar, having subdued Phœnicia, passed through the tribe of Dan in his way to Jerusalem. When the enemy therefore was advanced so near, it was time for the people of Judah to take the alarm, and to provide for their own security.

Ibid.—his steeds—] **אֲבִירָיו**—This word is used for "war horses," Judg. v. 22. Ch. xlvii. 3. See also note on Ch. i. 11.

17.—which cannot be charmed] That some persons possessed the faculty of rendering serpents harmless, is a fact too well attested by historians and travellers to admit of contradiction. But by what means this effect was produced, is not quite so clear. The Scripture word **שֶׁמֶר** seems to be used in conformity to the vulgar opinion, ascribing it to the power of certain cabalistical words and incantations *muttered* through the teeth. But this we have reason to believe was in general no other than a mist cast over the eyes of the common people by those who were in possession of physical discoveries, in order to procure more veneration and respect. Pliny speaks of certain herbs, which being carried about prevented the bite of serpents. Hist. Nat. Lib. xx. § 15. Lib. xxii. § 25. Others tell surprising, but not altogether incredible stories of the affinity and influence of musical sounds. See Bochart De sacr. animal. Par. II. Lib. iii. Cap. 6. Shaw's Travels, p. 429. and Sir John Chardin's MS. cited by Harmer, Ch. viii. Obs. 14. In this same MS. the author remarks, that "those that know how to tame serpents by their charms, are wont commonly to break out their teeth; and

supposes this to be alluded to, Ps. lviii. 6. "Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth."—But whatever were the methods commonly practised, the enemies of the Jews are here compared to such serpents as were not to be mollified nor disarmed by any of those means; "they shall bite you, saith JEHOVAH."

18.—past my remedying] מְבַלִּיגִיתִי. This I take to be an improper junction of two words, מְבַלִּי גִיתִי, which are so distinguished in four MSS. and one Edition. Another MS. also reads מְבַלִּי גִיתִי. The first of these words, מְבַלִּי, is a negative particle; and גִּיתִי, or written at full length, גִּייתִי, is a verb in the infinitive mood from גָּחַח, *to heal*, with the affix י. The LXX and Arabic versions favour this emendation.

19. Behold the voice, &c.] The prophet anticipates in his imagination the captivity of his countrymen in Babylon, "a far country;" and represents them there as asking with a mixture of grief and astonishment, if there was no such Being as JEHOVAH, who presided in Sion, that he so neglected his people, and suffered them to continue in such a wretched plight. Upon this complaint of theirs God justly breaks in with a question on his part; and demands why, if they acknowledged such a protector as himself, they had deserted his service, and by going over to idols, with which they had no natural connexion, had forfeited all title to his favour. The people then proceed with their complaint in the next verse, setting forth (that though much time had elapsed, they nevertheless seemed to be still as far from deliverance as ever.

Ibid. And by their foreign vanities] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. add the conjunction ו, and read וּבְזִבְלִי.

22. Is there no balm in Gilead?] *Balm* or *Balsam* is used with us as a common name for many of those oily resinous substances, which flow spontaneously or by incision from certain trees or plants, and are of considerable use in medicine and surgery. It serves therefore very properly to express the Hebrew word צִרִי, which the LXX. have rendered γύμν. and the ancients have interpreted *resin* indiscriminately. But Kimchi and some of the moderns have understood by צִרִי that particular species, heretofore properly called *balsamum* or *opobalsamum*, and now distinguished by the name of *Balsamum Judaicum*, or "Balm of Gilead;" being that which is so much celebrated by Pliny, Strabo, Diodorus Siculus, Tacitus, Justin, and others, for its costliness, its medicinal virtues, and for being the product of Judea only, and of a particular spot there; and which Josephus attributes to the neighbourhood of Jericho; but says, that the tree was according to tradition originally brought by the queen of Sheba to king Solomon out of Arabia Felix, the country that now principally supplies the demand for that valuable drug. See Joseph. Ant. Lib. iv. c. 6. Lib. viii. c. 6. De Bell. Jud. Lib. i. c. 6. (Edit. Hudson.) On the other hand, Bochart strongly contends, that צִרִי could not possibly mean that balsam, as Gilead was very far from the spot which produced it, and none of the trees grew on that side of the Jordan; and besides, צִרִי is spoken of as brought

from Gilead (Gen. xxxvii. 25.) long before the balsam tree had been planted in any part of Judea. He therefore considers it as no other than the resin drawn from the Terebinthus, or turpentine tree, which abounds sufficiently in those parts. Bochart De sacr. animal. Par. I. Lib. ii. Cap. 51. And this for all that appears may have been the case; the resin or balm of the Terebinthus, being well known to have healing virtues; which is at least sufficient to answer the design of the prophet's question on this occasion; which was metaphorically to ask, if there were no salutary means within reach, or none that knew how to apply them for the relief of his country from those miseries with which it was afflicted.

CHAP. IX.

1. Oh that my head] All the Heb. MSS. and the generality of printed copies, reckon this as the 23d verse of Ch. viii. to which it properly belongs, being a continuation of the prophet's sympathetic wailing over his wretched country.

2. Oh that I had in the wilderness] These words are not spoken like the former by the prophet in his own person, but as coming immediately from the mouth of God; as appears from the close of ver. 3. "And me have they not known saith JEHOVAH." God wishes himself in a situation not to see the corrupt and profligate manners of his people, which are set forth at large, and for which he renews his denunciations of vengeance against them; v. 2--16. He summons the mourning women to bewail the calamities of the nation; v. 17--22. forbids setting any value on personal endowments, except the knowledge of God and his attributes only; v. 23, 24; and shews the punishment of the circumjacent nations, circumcised and uncircumcised, to be near at hand.

Ibid.—a traveller's lodge] Travellers in the East are not, nor ever were accommodated at inns on the road, after the manner of the European nations. In some places indeed there are large public buildings provided for their reception, which they call *Caravanseras*: but these afford merely a covering, being absolutely without furniture; and the traveller must carry his own provisions and necessaries along with him, or he will not find any. Nor are even these empty mansions always to be met with; so that if the weary traveller at night comes into a town, where there is no *caravansera*, or *πανδοχεον*, as it is called, Luk. x. 34. he must take up his lodging in the street, unless some charitable inhabitant will be pleased to receive him into his house; as we find, Judg. xix. 15. And if he passes through the desert, it is well for him if he can light upon a cave, or a hut, which some one before him may have erected for a temporary shelter. And this last is what I conceive to be here meant by מלון אריות; a solitary and not very comfortable situation; but yet preferable to the chagrin of living continually in the society of men of profligate manners.

3.—like a bow; by falsehood] Instead of קשתים שקר I propose to

read **משקו**. The LXX, Chald. and Vulg. do not acknowledge the affix pronoun after **משקו**; and the ellipsis of **כ**, the particle of similitude, which is wanting before it, is very frequent; although it may very possibly have been dropt by accident here, on account of the similar sound of the following **פ**. All the ancient versions express it.

4.—will go about to overreach] **רביג יחלך**. See the note on Ch. vi. 28.

6. Through deceit have they refused to know me, saith JEHOVAH.] The knowledge of God, which is true religion, is incompatible with the habitual practice of any wickedness. And therefore it is natural enough for those, that are resolved at all events to abide in their evil courses, to endeavour, if possible, to divest themselves of all religious principles, which, if insufficient to restrain, will be sure at least to be very troublesome to them. For this cause they are ready to “say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.” Job xxi. 14.

7. Behold I will melt them, and try them] In these words God professes his intention of making use of the furnace of affliction, to try if he can by such means purge and purify the manners of his people; since all other had proved ineffectual for their amendment.

8.—the arrow of a murderer] The Masoretes here read **שחוט**, which is also the reading of twenty nine, perhaps thirty one, MSS. and three Editions. But I prefer **שחוט**, the received reading of the text.

Ibid.—to fall upon him by surprize] **ארכו**—*insidiari ei*.

10.—the pastures of the plain—] **מרבר** is used for the plain or champain country, as opposed to the mountains. See Isa. lxiii. 13. Lam. iv. 19. Joel i. 19. ii. 22. It properly signifies a thinly inhabited country, used chiefly for sheepwalks; from the Chaldee signification of the word **בר**, *to lead*, as a shepherd doth his sheep.

Ibid.—are fled, are gone] The Syr. and Vulg. add the conjunction before **חלכו**, as if they had read **וילכו**.

12. Who is the wise man, &c.] In this stile of interrogation the prophet indirectly declares himself to be the person qualified by divine inspiration to answer the question proposed in the latter part of the verse; which he accordingly does in the verses that follow.

14. the deities which they learned from their fathers] The Vulg. seems to point out **למרו מאבותם** as the true reading; but whether we follow that, or read as the text stands at present, the sense is the same.

As the heathen nations had their superior gods, *dii majores*, and others of a subordinate rank, so it has been observed by some learned writers, the Israelites seem in early times to have distinguished between the terms **אלהים** and **בעלים**, the former of which they appropriated to JEHOVAH, the supreme God, the maker of heaven and earth; and whilst they pretended to admit of no other gods, **אלהים**, but him, none of the same rank and order, they were willing to think themselves free

to pay an inferior worship to the tutelary gods of other nations, whom they stiled **בְּעִלִּים**, LORDS, *Deities*, or *Demons*, of a middle rank between the divine nature and the human. But that this evasion availed them little, appears from the frequent and severe rebukes they received from time to time. St Paul takes notice of the same kind of distinction made among the heathen, who had their *θεοὶ* and *κυριοὶ πολλοί*, "Gods many, and Lords many;" but admonishes Christians that "to them there was but one God, the father—and one Lord, Jesus Christ," to whom alone they might address themselves, as "the single Mediator between God and men; and for this reason, "because he," and none but he, "ever liveth to make intercession for them." 1 Cor. viii. 5, 6. 1 Tim. ii. 5. Heb. vii. 25.

15.—Behold I will feed them—] The LXX. omit **וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁכַּח**, which is certainly a redundancy in the text, and appears to have been a marginal gloss crept into it. All the other versions retain these words, but omit the affix, reading **מֵאֵכֶל** instead of **מֵאֵכֶלֶךָ**. One MS. omits **וְהָיָה**.

Ibid.—water of hemlock—] See Note on Ch. viii. 14.

16. And I will send after them the sword.] So it was threatened by Moses in case of disobedience, Lev. xxvi. 33. Compare Ch. xliv. 27. Ezek. v. 12.

17.—the mourning women] It was an ancient custom of the Hebrews at funerals and on other like occasions, to make use of hired mourners, whose profession it was to exhibit in public all the signs and gestures of immoderate and frantic grief, and by their loud outcries and doleful songs to excite and stir up a real passion of sorrow in others. Women were chiefly employed in this office; and Jerome in his comment upon this verse says, that the practice was continued in Judea down to his days. *Hic enim mos usque hodie manet in Judæa; ut mulieres sparsis crinibus, nudatisque pectoribus, voce modulata omnes ad fletum excitent.* And in Josephus De Bell. Jud. Lib. iii. c. 8. (Edit. Hudson) we find, that on a false report of that Historian's death, many of his friends hired musical persons, *οἱ θρηνητὴς ἐλάχον αὐταῖς*, to take the lead in their lamentations. As it required therefore a degree of skill to discharge this office, for that reason these "mourning women," **מְקוֹנְנֹת**, are also called **מְחַכְמוֹת**, "the skilful ones." Frequent allusions to this custom are to be met with in Scripture, particularly 2 Chron. xxxv. 25. where "the singing men and singing women" are said to have made it a constant rule after king Josiah's death to commemorate that excellent prince in all their future dirges or lamentations, as one in whom the public in general had sustained an irreparable loss. Such also were the mourners that go about the streets," mentioned Eccles. xii. 5. and those whom Amos calls **נְדָבִים**, "skilful of lamentation;" Amos v. 16. And such I presume were "the minstrels, and the people making a noise," *οχλὸν θορυβώμενον*, whom our Saviour found in the house of the ruler of the synagogue, whose daughter was just dead, Matt. ix. 23. St Mark calls them "those that wept and wailed greatly." *κλαίοντες καὶ ἀλαλάζοντες πολλὰ*, Mar. v. 38. Nor was this practice peculiar to

the Jews. In Homer we find Hector's corpse thus attended, *Iliad*. Ω 719.

Οἱ δ' ἔπειτα προσάγουσιν κλυτὰ θώματα, τοὺς μὲν ἱκέτες
 Τρητοῖς ἐν λειχίῃσι θίσαν, παρὰ δ' αἶσαν αἰδέεσθαι,
 Θρήνων ἔκχευας, οἷσι τοιοῖσσαν αἰδέσθαι
 Οἱ μὲν αὖτ' Ἰθρηνίον, ἐπὶ δὲ στυγαχόῳ γυναῖκες.

So likewise in the *Phænissæ* of Euripides, ver. 1504.

Τίνα δὲ προσῶδον
 Ἡ τίνα μυσσοπολὸν στυγαχὴν ἐπὶ δακρυσί,
 Δακρυσί, ἢ δόμος δόμος, ἀνακαλίσσεται;

The Romans called these mourning women *præficae*, concerning whom we find the following lines in a fragment of Lucilius, Lib. xxii.

Mercede quæ conductæ flent alieno in funere *præficae*,
 Multo et capillos scindunt et clamant magis.

But Statius in *Epicedio patris* speaks of them as of a foreign growth.

Ut Pharios aliæ ficta pietate dolores
 Mygdoniosque colunt, et non sua funera plorant.

See also Lowth *De Sacr. Poesi Hebr. Prælect.* xxii.

19.—they have thrown down our habitations.] Our present English translation would require that we should read *וַיִּשְׁלֹכּוּ* instead of *וַיִּבְנוּ*; and in one MS. indeed we find *וַיִּשְׁלֹכּוּ*. The LXX. render *ἀπὸ τοῦ ἔδαφους*, as if they had read *וַיִּשְׁלֹכּוּ*. But the present reading of the text needs no alteration; *וַיִּבְנוּ* being the 3d person plur. in *Hiphil*, used according to the Hebrew idiom indefinitely, and as it were impersonally, without a nominative expressed; so that “they have thrown down our habitations” is in effect the same as, “Our habitations are thrown down;” in which manner the words are rendered by the Syr. Chald. and Vulgate.

21. It hath at once cut off - - - - And destroyed—] *וַיִּכְרֹם* signifies not only *to speak*, but also *to destroy*; See 2 Chron. xxii. 10. Taken in this latter sense, and detached from the place where it now stands at the beginning of the next verse, it connects well with this, and completes the sentence. In the present Editions of the LXX. and in the Syr. it is totally omitted; but is found in those of Aquila, Symmachus, the Chald. and Vulg. where it is rendered imperatively, “speak,” or “prophecy.” Theodotion however expresses it by *θαιατο*, and the Hexaplar represents the LXX. as doing the same; which is verified by the MS. Pachom. The passage may literally be translated, “In cutting off (or, Whilst it cut off) the children from the street, it hath destroyed, &c.” which amounts exactly to the sense expressed in the version I have given. As the children used to play in the streets (see the note on Ch. vi. 11.) so the open areas of the towns, such as the exchange, the market places, &c. (as *רחובות* have been already explained in note on Ch. v. 1.) were the customary places of resort for the young men; but death, it is here said, entering into the houses, effectually cut off both the children and young men from their usual haunts.

22. And the carcases, &c.] At the beginning of this verse besides רבֵּי we read in the Hebrew text, כִּרְיָ נֶאֱמָר יַחְזִיר. But these words are not to be found in the LXX; and there is good reason to believe them to be spurious; as they serve only to perplex the sense, which goes on clear and smooth without them. They seem to have been inserted first into the margin by some one, who misunderstood the sense of רבֵּי, and thought some addition necessary to introduce the words that follow. In time they found their way into the text.

Ibid. And as the handful behind the reaper] This alludes to the manner of reaping corn in the field, where the reaper, as soon as he has cut what he can hold in his hand, lets it fall, and passes on; but is usually followed by another, who gathers what is cut, and binds it into sheaves. But here it is said, that there would be none to gather; and consequently the corn, after being cut, would lie neglected and rot on the ground: which renders the simile a very apt one.

23. Nor let the rich] Forty four MSS. and seven Editions read לֵאמֹר instead of לֵא; and all the ancient versions express the conjunction.—To glory in wisdom, might, or riches, is to depend on them as the means of procuring security and happiness.

24.—exercising lovingkindness, judgment and faithfulness] Security and happiness, if to be had at all, must come from God. They are his gift, and bestowed by him on one or other of these accounts; either as a matter of “gratuitous favour,” which is the proper sense of רַחֲמֵי; or as a matter of right or “judgment,” מִשְׁפָּט; as when God in the character of a righteous judge distributeth rewards to the well deserving; or lastly, as a matter of “faithfulness,” in regard to his word and promises. So צִדְקָתוֹ often signifies; and God’s salvation is also often said to be extended to his people on this very account, to fulfil the promises made to their fathers.

Ibid. For in these do I delight] לֵא is here ambiguous, and may either denote those attributes, or those persons who place their confidence in those known or acknowledged attributes of the Deity; which is having a right faith in him. And this latter I take to be in reality intended here; but I have retained the ambiguity in the version, so that those who are of a different opinion may follow their own sense.

25.—the circumcision with the uncircumcision] מִלּוּ and עֲרִילּוּ are here used as περιτομή and ἀπεργυσία in the New Testament, the abstract for the concrete. See Rom. iii. 30.

26.—all those that have their coast insulated—] By this circumlocution the Arabians are generally supposed to be designed; and thus much, I think, may fairly be concluded from the connexion in which these words stand with the context in Ch. xlix. 32. But concerning the precise meaning of the words קְצוּצֵי פְאָרֵי, interpreters differ very greatly. Some represent them as signifying persons cut off from other people by being thrust into a remote corner; in which light the translators of our Bible appear to have considered them, when they rendered in the text, “all that are in the utmost corners;” and in the mar-

gin, "cut off into corners." But all the ancient versions understand them as expressing the peculiar manner in which the Arabians cut the hair of their heads or beards. DR DURELL professes himself to have been of this opinion in a note as follows. "The marginal reading, *and all having the corners of their hair polled*, ought doubtless to be received into the text; for the Arabs, who are meant by this periphrasis, cut their hair short, particularly about the crown of the head; and in respect to their beard, they left only a tuft of hair growing about their chins; a practice which was forbidden the Jews, Lev. xix. 27. Herodotus, speaking of this nation, says; *Τοις τριχαι την κυρην περιρθαι φασι, καταπερ αυτοι τον Διονυσον κεκαρθαι· περιρθαι δε υποτροχαλα, περιξυροντες τις κριταφης*. Lib. iij. Cap. 8." DR DURELL.

But the words, I am persuaded, have a respect to the peninsular form of the country, surrounded on all sides by the sea, excepting only the isthmus to the north; and thus these people were *insulated* or *cut off* as to their *coast* or *quarter* from any other land. Horace speaks of lands thus cut off or parted by the sea; Od. Lib. I. iij. 21.

Nequicquam Deus *abscidit*
Prudens Oceano dissociabili
Terras.

And Virgil of the insular situation of Britain. Ecl. i. 67.

Et penitus toto divisos orbe Britannos.

Where we may observe, that the words *penitus divisos* mark the total separation all around; but קצוצי פאר need only be understood of a partial one.

But I cannot help offering a conjecture here with respect to the words, וְיֹשְׁבֵי בְּמִדְבָּר, that they are not exegetic, as they appear at present, of קצוצי פאר, the inhabitants of the peninsula of Arabia properly so called; but respect a distinct people, namely, those Arabians that dwelt above in the great desert between Mesopotamia and Palestine. This distinction we find made Ch. xxv. 23, 24. and therefore I am inclined to think we ought to read וְיֹשְׁבֵי, with the conjunction ו prefixed; "And those that dwell in the wilderness." See also the Notes on Ch. xlviii. 45. xlix. 28.

Ibid.--And all the house of Israel, uncircumcised in heart.] So I think these words should be pointed, in order to express the prophet's meaning, which was, that not only the heathen nations were uncircumcised, but the house of Israel also, uncircumcised, if not in flesh, at least in heart; which was the uncircumcision that rendered them obnoxious in God's sight.

CHAP. X.

THE beginning of this Chapter to the end of ver. 16. contains an earnest dissuasive against the practice of heathen idolatry, setting forth the vanity of idols in comparison with the true God. And this no doubt was designed by way of precaution to the Jews against the time

of their removal out of their own land, to dwell amongst idolaters, as is predicted ver. 17, 18. Jerusalem lamenteth the completion of her ruin; and humbly supplicateth the intervention of God's mercy; v. 19---to the end.

2.---the signs of the heavens---] The Chaldeans, among whom the Jews were destined to live in captivity, were particularly addicted to Astrology, and attributed to the heavenly bodies a considerable influence over human affairs. This naturally tended to beget a religious dread and awe of those objects, from whence so much good or evil was supposed to be derived. The sun, moon, and planets are said indeed to have been created and set in the firmament "for signs," Gen. i. 14. But hereby is meant, that they should serve as natural marks serving to distinguish by their periodical revolutions and appearances the various times and seasons; which however is a very different use from that of prognosticating future events, or causing any alteration in the fortunes of men.

3.---of him that worketh with a sharp tool.] מַעצָר is sometimes interpreted as "an ax," and sometimes "a plane." But it seems rather to be a general name for any cutting instrument, from עָצַר, which signifies *securis* in Arabic; as Bp. Lowth observes in a note on Isai. xlv. 12. Here I suppose it to mean that tool, with which the carver shapes his block into due form, before he proceeds to decorate it with gold and silver, in order to be set up as an object of worship. Compare Isa. xl. 19, 20. xli. 7. xlv. 12, &c.

4. They fasten them, that they may not totter.] The plural affix in מְזֻקְקִים has reference to עֵץ in the preceding verse, which though singular in form, is often plural in sense; and here "timber," or "trees," cut down and wrought into images may be properly considered as the antecedent. But for יָפִיק we must then read יָפִקוּ, with the LXX. Syr. and Arabic.

5. They must altogether be carried] Nine MSS. read by transposition יִנְשְׂאוּ for יִנְשָׂא, besides three Editions, in which it is so found among the various readings collected in them. One MS. also reads יִנְשָׂא with the mark of a letter erased at the end; and another had at first יִנְשָׂא.

Ibid.---for they cannot hurt] See Isa. xli. 23.

7. When he shall approach unto thee] Dr DURELL has the following note on this passage---"All the ancient versions seem to have considered the words כִּי לֹךְ יֵאָתֶר, as an elliptical phrase, and supply a substantive, viz. *honour, glory, or kingdom*, except Theodotion; who very properly reads as in the Hebrew---כִּי לֹךְ יֵאָתֶר. The phrase is indeed elliptical; but *Fear* is obviously understood from the preceding words. Or יֵאָתֶר may be a substantive, signifying *submission* or *acquiescence*, with the ellipsis of the verb substantive; which may seem more agreeable to the Hebrew idiom. I find TAYLOR proposes this sense." Dr DURELL.

It seems however to me more natural and suitable to the context to consider יֵאָתֶר as the 3d pers. fut. from יָאָתַר, *to come or approach* un-

to God in the way of worship and supplication. So the verb is used, Ch. iii. 22.

Ibid.---among all the wisest of the nations---] בְּכָל-חֲכָמֵי הַגּוֹיִם These words may signify, either all those nations which were most distinguished for the cultivation and improvement of their rational faculties; or else those sage individuals among them, from whose learning and philosophy some better notions of God and religion might have been expected, than from the rude and illiterate vulgar. And yet the fact was, that all their boasted wisdom and knowledge had failed of leading them to an object of worship, in any degree corresponding with the infinite perfections and majesty of the divine nature.

8. But they, when they approach] וּבֹאֲחֹת---It can hardly be doubted that for וּבֹאֲחֹת we should by a slight alteration read וּבֹאֲחֹת; אֲחֹת or אֲחֹת being the infinitive of אָחַת, the verb used just before in the preceding verse. See the last note but one. The contrast is thus strongly marked between the true God, and the objects of heathen superstition. The servants of the former, when they approached him in their devotions, could not help being impressed with a reverential awe of a being so transcendently glorious. But those who drew near to worship the latter, manifested the greatest stupidity in not discovering what was so obvious to common apprehension, the gross unworthiness of the objects, to whom their adorations were addressed.

Ibid.---The very wood itself being a rebuker of vanities] The true meaning and force of this passage seems to have escaped the notice of all the Commentators. מוֹסֵר properly signifies *rectifying* or *correcting* a false notion by just reproof; and by *vanities* are meant *idols*, so called from their being of no real use or advantage to those who had recourse to their assistance. And this unprofitableness of the idol the very dull and senseless matter, says the prophet, out of which it was formed, is capable of demonstrating. But the "rebuke," strictly speaking, is not directed to the idol, but to those who had not sense to perceive, that all the efforts of human art could never change an inanimate log of wood into an animated being, possessed of power and intelligence far surpassing the person, from whom its origin was derived. There is therefore an energy and pointedness in this short sentence, at least equal, in my opinion, to whatever has been said upon the same subject by the most spirited writer, whether sacred or profane. Not even the keen raillery of the Roman Satirist in those celebrated lines, *Olim truncus eram ficulnus*, &c. (Hor. Sat. Lib. I. Sat. viii. 1.) though in a more ludicrous stile, cuts with greater severity.

9.---and gold from Uphaz] For מֵאוּפַז the Syr. Chald. and Theodotion render "from Ophir;" but whether they read in their copies מֵאוּפַז, or supposed מֵאוּפַר and מֵאוּפַז to be the same name, though a little varied in the spelling, which in proper names is not uncommon; or whether Uphaz be the name of some other place famous for its mart of gold, is not very easy to determine. One or other of these however I think more likely to have been the case, than that מֵאוּפַז denoted gold of any particular species or quality; which latter seems to have been

the opinion of Jerome, who says that אֹפִיר was one of the seven names by which gold was distinguished among the Hebrews. That אֹפִיר may have been such, I am not at all inclined to dispute, as it may signify very properly gold of the most compact kind, and consequently having the least mixture of alloy. And supposing it to be so, it may account with some degree of probability for the corruption of אֹפִיר or אֹפִיר into אֹפִיר; the former being accounted the country from whence the finest gold was imported, which had also the name of אֹפִיר given it for its quality; and so from a jumble of both together the word אֹפִיר may have proceeded. Perhaps the text might have been originally, אֹפִיר וְזָהָב מֵאֹפִיר, "And gold from Ophir, even the finest gold." This would render both the metre and the parallelism of the lines more perfect; and at the same time the similiarity of the last word אֹפִיר to the three letters immediately preceding would easily account for the mistake of a transcriber.

Ibid. Blue and purple is their clothing] The splendour and magnificence of dress seems among the ancients to have consisted very much in the richness of the colours; the art of dying which to perfection was esteemed a matter of great skill, being known and practised by very few. The excellency of the Tyrian purple is celebrated by both sacred and profane authors. And the blue, which from many passages of Scripture we find to have been in great request, was also imported from remote countries as an article of elegant and expensive luxury. See Ezek. xxvii. 7, 24.

Ibid. The work of the skilful all of them] If in the preceding verse the insignificance of the idols was argued from the vile and perishable matter out of which they were composed; the same is inferred in this from their being indebted to the art and labour of man for all their costly ornaments, their splendid outward shew. In short "the whole of them," says the prophet, internal and external, "is the work of skilful men." And so says the prophet Hosea, Ch. xiii. 2. "the work of craftsmen entirely." Upon what ground then could the thing formed pretend to a nature more excellent than its former!

10.—he is truly God] אֱלֹהִים is here used adverbially. The margin of our Bible renders, "a God of truth;" but in that case אֱלֹהִים should have been in *statu regiminis*, אֱלֹהֵי. See Ch. xiv. 13.

11. In this manner shall ye speak unto them] This verse is omitted in one MS. and to speak my mind freely, I cannot help questioning the authenticity of it, not only on account of the singularity of its being written in Chaldee, at a time too, when the people, not having left their own land, had not yet begun to make use of that dialect; but also because it breaks in upon and interrupts the course of the argument, which, it is manifest, would proceed more regularly and smoothly without it. It seems probable to me, that some public teacher during the captivity, deducing it by direct inference from the prophet's words, had it inserted in the margin, and perhaps usually read together with this section of the prophecy in the assemblies of the people, in order that the common people might have their answer always ready, whenever

they were molested on the point of religion, or importuned to join in the idolatrous worship of the Chaldeans. The LXX. and Syr. interpreters seem to have been conscious of the interruption given to the sense by the interpolation of this verse, having added a word answerable to יְהוָה at the beginning of ver. 12. for a subject of the verbs. But no trace of such a word appears in any of the Hebrew copies.

13.—from the extremity of the earth] Twenty five MSS. and four Editions read with the Masora, וְהָאָרֶץ; and four MSS. have a letter erased before אָרֶץ. By “the extremity of the earth” is here meant the Horizon.

14. Every man becometh a brute by acknowledging] Both מִדַּעַת and מִפֶּסֶל I take to be verbs in the infinitive mood with the particle ה prefixed. In our English Bible נִסְכּוֹ is also considered as a noun with the affix, “his molten image;” but this the LXX. Syr. and Chald. have more rightly represented as a verb; and נִסַּךְ signifies not only to *pour out melted metal*, as the founder doth; but to *anoint* or *consecrate* a person to an office by pouring oil upon him; See Ps. ii. 6. And both here and Isa. xlv. 10. it signifies to “set up,” or “dedicate,” an image for religious worship. The last cited passage with the verse that follows it I look upon to be so nearly parallel in sense to the verse under consideration, that they seem to throw light mutually upon each other. And as Bp. Lowth, in his annotations upon Isa. xlv. 10, 11. hath observed that some part of these verses has never yet been interpreted to any tolerably good sense, and it is my chance not entirely to coincide with that learned Prelate in his interpretation of them, I shall beg leave to offer with all due deference what appears to me a more suitable translation of them.

10 Who hath formed a God?

Or set up a graven image, that profiteth not?

11 Behold all that are connected with it shall be ashamed;

And the artificers, they above all men;

They shall assemble all of them; they shall stand forth;

They shall fear, they shall be ashamed at the same time.

that is, while they stand before the image they have set up, and worship it with a religious dread, the glaring absurdity of their conduct shall tend to their shame and disgrace.

15.—of those that greatly err] תַּעֲתוּעִים—The reduplication of תַּעֲתוּ the participle in *Kal* from תַּעַר, to err, seems emphatically to imply a multiplication of errors; or persons more than simply gone astray.

16.—the portion of Jacob] Upon the principles of heathen theology every nation was committed to the care and superintendency of its own tutelary God; who might with propriety be stiled its “portion,” on account of the peculiar relation that subsisted between them. “The portion of Jacob” therefore is the same as the God of Jacob, he who had taken upon himself the guardianship and protection of that family. But he was distinguished from all the rest, who, as before observed, were falsehood and vanity all of them, having no other existence than

as lifeless images, the work of deluded men ; whereas he was the creator of the universe, of all that exists ; and that there might be no room to mistake the Being intended, he is further characterized as he who had made choice of Israel for the special object of his concern, had marked him out for his own possession, as with a measuring rod ; and to whom the name of JEHOVAH belonged.

17. Gather up thine effects out of the land] The person here addressed under a female character most probably means the same as the daughter of Sion, that is, the community of citizens resident in Jerusalem, justly stiled “ a fortress,” or strong hold ; for so it was. These are required to collect together all their goods for packing, like persons about to change their place of abode ; and the reason assigned in the next verse shews, that hereby is meant a preparing of themselves to go into captivity ; because the enemy is represented as driving the inhabitants of the country before him with slings from one post to another, till being reduced at last to the utmost distress in a place no longer tenable, they are taken, and carried away into servitude in a foreign land ; the usual fate of prisoners of war in those days. See Ezek. xii. 3. Hence also we see the connection and ground of the foregoing exhortations against idolatrous conformity ; forasmuch as the people would soon be found in such circumstances, as would minister frequent temptations to such a practice.

Ibid. O thou that dwellest—] For יושבתי the Masoretes rightly read יושבת, which is conformable to eight MSS. and one Edition ; besides sixteen MSS. and the first printed Bible, which read ישובה.

18.—at this time] בפעם הזאת—This implies that though they had been often saved by God’s providence from hostile attacks, they would however on this occasion find it otherwise.

19. Wo is me, &c.] In this and the following verses the Prophet seems by anticipation to suggest motives of patience and consolation to his country in regard to the evils that were coming upon her. These he puts into her own mouth, and makes her observe first, that her affliction, though great, was such as by experience she found to be tolerable : secondly, that she had less reason to complain of what she suffered, as it was no other than might have been expected from the misconduct of those who had the direction of her affairs : and lastly, that she was not without hope in the mercy of God, who upon the humble supplication of his people might be moved to mitigate their chastisement, and to turn his hand against the heathen that oppressed them.

Ibid.—yet I have borne it] ואשאנו—The ו conversive requires the time past.

22. Hark a noise ! behold, it advanceth—] שמועה signifies something *audible* or *to be heard*, “ a bruit,” or “ noise ;” which is explained in the following hemistich to be that of the tumultuary invasion of the Chaldeans from the north, of which notice had been repeatedly given . see Ch. i. 15. iv. 6. v. 15. vi. 22. Perhaps the same thing is meant by the words קול חמולר גללר, Ch. xi. 16. Our English transla-

tion cannot be right, which makes קול the subject of באר, though of a different gender. But קול שמוע is an independent member of the sentence, and should be rendered by itself "Hark a noise!" or more literally, "The voice or sound of a noise!" So קול is frequently used to denote a thing to be already within hearing; as Cant. ii. 8. Isa. xl. 3. lxvi. 6. The subject of באר is the pronoun substitute of שמוע, not expressed, but virtually contained in the verb.

23. I know JEHOVAH that his way is not like that of men] DR DURELL hath thus explained this passage. "The meaning of this verse according to our English version seems to be, that all events are under the direction of God's providence, which man cannot counteract. But I think the text may admit of another sense, rather more connected with the context, thus, "I know with respect to JEHOVAH, that his way is not like that of a mortal; that he doth not walk, nor direct his step, like a man." This construction is justified by the most common of all Hebrew idioms; and ל is often used as a particle of comparison; See Noldius—The sense here proposed is parallel to several other passages of Scripture, and is adopted by the Syriac Version. And upon the ground of this sentiment it is, that the daughter of Sion (whom I here suppose to be the speaker) builds her confidence of mercy in God's chastisements." DR DURELL.

24.—only with moderation] In the preceding verse the speaker, having professed a satisfactory belief that she had not to do with such a weak, peevish, and vindictive being as man, here humbly intreats Almighty God to deal out his corrections in such a moderate degree, as to shew that he aimed at the amendment, and not the destruction of the offender. משפט properly signifies that "calm and dispassionate judgment," which stands opposed to the hasty sallies of anger and furious revenge. And though the latter cannot actually exist in God, it is sometimes however nominally attributed to him, whenever the effects of his displeasure are so violent, as to stop nothing short of utter ruin; although such a proceeding may be justifiable upon the most solid principles of reason and equity. As therefore to punish with anger implies an unrelenting rigour and severity: so to correct with judgment admits the use of such moderation, as is consistent with the sinner's personal safety, whilst it promotes his reformation.

25.—they have devoured Jacob, and consumed him] The LXX. and one MS. omit ואכלו, and, I think, rightly. There appears no elegance in the repetition of אכלו; and besides it is not conformable to the Hebrew Syntax, which would have required the future tense after the ו conversive, ויאכלו or ויאכלהו, as we find ויאכלו. The interpolation doubtless arose from the similarity of the following verb, ויאכלו. In the parallel place, Ps. lxxix. 7. both ויאכלו and ויאכלו are omitted, and so likewise they are here in one MS.

CHAP. XI.

THE prophecy contained in this and the following Chapter may not improbably be assigned to the reign of Josiah ; only to the latter end of it, when the people, who in the 18th year of that prince had solemnly engaged to perform the obligations of the divine covenant, may in course of time be supposed to have relapsed into their former disregard and neglect. The prophet is therefore sent to recal them to their duty, by proclaiming anew the terms of the covenant, and rebuking them sharply for their hereditary disobedience ; v. 1—8. He denounceth evil against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem for their idolatrous apostasy ; v. 9—17. and being informed of the conspiracy of the men of Anathoth against his life by divine revelation, he prayeth against them, and is authorized to foretel their utter destruction.

2. And thou shalt speak] The Chald. and Vulg. with the generality of interpreters construe וְדַבַּרְתָּ as the 2d pers. plur. “And ye shall speak.” But it will not, I think, be easy to find who the persons were, that are thus addressed in the plural number. שְׁמַעוּ indeed is plural, though the Syr. read שְׁמַע instead of it. But the word or message, which came from God to Jeremiah, may well be conceived to contain a general precept of obedience to the people of Judah at large ; and afterwards a particular injunction to Jeremiah. But the people, though intended in the first instance, could not be required to speak unto themselves. Nor do we meet with any trace of others joined in commission with Jeremiah, to whom it might be said, “And ye shall speak ;” besides the manifest impropriety of it being followed immediately after with וְאָמַרְתָּ, “And thou shalt say.” Accordingly the LXX. render καὶ λαλήσεις, as if they as well as the Syr. had read וְדַבַּרְתָּ. But וְדַבַּרְתָּ I conceive still to be the true reading, and to be the 2d pers. sing. with the affix דַּבַּר ; so that after a general command given to the people to obey the words of the covenant, the prophet is particularly ordered to speak or rehearse THEM, the words of the covenant, before the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to enforce the obedience required by pronouncing a curse against the disobeyers.

4.—and do all which I command you] The LXX. and Vulg. appear to have read אֶת־כָּל אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתִּי, which is undoubtedly the true reading. אָמַרְתִּי is omitted in one MS. but in eighteen MSS. and four Editions is written אָמַרְתָּ ; the תָּ having probably been added by mistake from a transient glance cast on the last syllable of וְעָשִׂיתָ. One MS. reads כָּל for כָּל־, and the first כָּ perhaps was added after the prior corruption of אָמַרְתָּ, being then deemed necessary.

7. and all along unto this day] Thirty five MSS. and four Editions read וְעַד with the conjunction, instead of עַד.

8.—therefore have I brought—] It is of the nature of a covenant to

denounce penalties against the presumptuous transgressor of it. And the sanctions of the Mosaic covenant may be seen scattered through different parts of the law, but particularly Lev. xxvi. 14, &c. Deut. xi. 26—28. xxvii. xxviii. xxx. 15, &c. Our English translators have rendered **וַאֲבִיָּא** in the future tense; but it has the signification of the preter because of the *Vau* conversive. And there is no impropriety in saying that God had already brought upon the people the evils, which he had not only resolved on, but had begun in some measure to carry into execution.

10.—the iniquities—] Thirty MSS. and five Editions read **עֲוֹנוֹת** at large; and all the ancient versions express the plural number.

11.—upon them] For **אֲלֵיהֶם** eight MSS. and the oldest Edition of the Bible read **עֲלֵיהֶם**; which seems preferable.

13.—according to the number of thy cities—See Ch. ii. 28.

Ibid—to a thing of shame—] See note on Ch. iii. 24.

14.—In the time of their calamity] Thirteen MSS. and two Editions read **בְּעַת** for **בְּעֵר**; and all the ancient versions seem to have done the same.

15. What hath my beloved, &c.] **יִרְדִּים**, **יִרְדֹּת** or **יִרְדִּוֹת**, and **דֹּרִים** seem to be all nouns of exactly the same import, signifying “loves,” *amores*, in the abstract, but most probably of familiar use as an endearing appellation between married people speaking to or of each other. See Ch. xii. 7. God is frequently said to have espoused his people, in regard of the special covenant that subsisted between them; and Ch. ii. 2. he tells them, he had not forgotten “the kindness he had for them in their youth, the love of their espousals.” But when his spouse acted a disloyal part, he might then think fit to disclaim any further correspondence with her.

But the remainder of the verse seems so intricate and perplexed, as ~~greatly~~ to need some critical assistance. For first, it is not easy to construe **הַמְזֻמָּתוֹת הַרְבִּיּוֹת** together, as the Syr. and Vulg. have done, who render, “many wickednesses” or “much wickedness,” both in defiance of grammar; or as our English translators, “lewdness with many;” which the words will as little bear. But here the LXX. step in to our aid, who appear instead of **הַרְבִּיּוֹת** to have read **נִדְרִים**, “Vows,” and to have prefixed the **ה** as a particle of interrogation, detaching it from the end of the preceding word **הַמְזֻמָּתוֹת**, and rendering, **Μὴ σὺχαί---It is obvious how much this reading tends to clear up all difficulties, and affords a sense that speaks altogether for itself. “Shall vows and holy flesh,” that is, sacrifices, “pass from thee with acceptance to me?” Compare Ch. vi. 20. Isa. i. 11.—13. Prov. xv. 8. Amos v. 22.**

In the subsequent part of the verse **רָעָתִי** seems to be an improper combination of two words, **רָעָת** **כִּי**, of which the former may be the 2d pers. sing. of the preter in *Kal* from **רָעָה** to be *evil* or *malignantly disposed*. The verb, I think, occurs in this sense, Deut. xv. 9. xxviii. 54, 56. and perhaps in other places, where it is thought to be in *Hiphil*. **כִּי** is a particle of interrogation. See Noldius. The question then im-

plies negatively ; “ When, instead of a due return of love thou shewest malignancy or illwill, shalt thou then carry it off triumphantly ? ”

16. With the noise of loud clamour] The words קול חמלור or נקול מחנור occur Ezek. i. 24. and are there explained to be “ like the voice of an host.” Here, as it has been remarked Ch. x. 22. they signify the confused murmur of the Chaldean army, coming to desolate Jerusalem and its dependencies with fire and sword. See Homer’s description of the advance of an Asiatic army, composed, as was that of Nebuchadnezzar, of various nations. *Iliad*. Δ. 433—438.

Ibid.—mounting upwards—] עלי is generally considered as the preposition על with the affix ה. But this may justly be questioned, as it must be referred to the same antecedent as דליותיו, and therefore should have been עליו. But I rather take עליה to be the feminine participle present of עלה, the third radical admitting a change into י, and so in agreement with אש to signify, “ a fire mounting or spreading upwards.” In ורעו also I conceive רעו to be the infinitive of רעה, according to a common anomaly, and to denote either the design for which the fire was kindled, or the effect of its increasing violence, so as to consume the tree, both the trunk and its branches.

17. In prosecution of the evil of the house, &c.] בגלל properly signifies “ devolving ” or “ rolling on,” that is, prosecuting or pushing forwards into effect the evil or mischief which the house of Israel and Judah had been the means of bringing upon themselves by provoking God to anger.

Ibid. In provoking me—] One MS. reads להזכעמי, “ in provoking HIM to anger.” But all the versions agree in the pronoun of the first person. And God being the speaker may be admitted to speak of himself in the first or third person indiscriminately.

19.—like a tame lamb—There is no conjunction to be found before אלו, and therefore it cannot signify, “ or an ox,” as in our English version. All the ancient versions represent it as an epithet of כבש. The Vulgate renders it *mansuetus* ; and אלו may be either the participle *Pahul* of הלך, to teach, or *habituate* ; or a participle adjective from that source. In Arabic *أُفِّقَ* signifies *mansuefactus fuit*. See Castelli, *Lexicon*.

Ibid. Let us destroy the tree in its nutriment—] The prophet’s countrymen, instead of reflecting on themselves as the real authors of their own misfortunes, seem in these words willing to throw the blame upon him, as if he was the promoter and efficient cause of the evils which he predicted, and to suppose that by cutting him off they might have a chance of escaping them. This is the most probable meaning of their proverbial saying, “ Let us destroy the tree by intercepting that which supplies it with nourishment ; לחמו, “ its food.” Upon the same principles Ahab charges Elijah with “ troubling Israel : ” 1 Kings xviii. 17. and professes to hate Micaiah, as if it had been the effect of that prophet’s illwill, that “ he did not prophesy good concerning him, but evil ; ” 1 Kings xxii. 8.

21.—that seek thy life] The LXX. read נפשי, “my life;” but this is unsupported by any other authority.

22. For this cause thus saith JEHOVAH of hosts;] These words are omitted by the LXX; and indeed they seem to be quite superfluous, so as to favour a suspicion, that they may have been repeated from the beginning of the preceding verse by the mistake of a transcriber.

Ibld.---The young men---] The LXX. and the Chald. render, “their young men.”

23.---upon the men of Anathoth---] The ancient Bodleian MS. and three others for לנ read לך.

CHAP. XII.

EMBOLDENED, as it should seem, by the success of his prayers against the men of Anathoth, the prophet ventures freely, though with professions of confidence in the divine justice, to expostulate with God concerning the prosperity of wicked men in general; whose punishment he solicits, attesting the mischiefs that were continually brought upon the land by their unrestrained wickedness; v. 1---4. In reply he is forewarned to expect, that in proportion to the power of his enemies, his own personal grievances would naturally increase; whilst the distractions of the state and the unkindness of his kinsfolk precluded him all hopes either of public or of private redress; v. 5, 6. But God expressly challenges the national calamities as the result of his own special determination and judgment. He had discarded his people for their malicious behaviour towards him, and they were therefore given up to the outrage and devastation of fierce and merciless invaders; v. 7---13. At last he promises them a restoration in future, with a retaliation in kind upon their heathen neighbours who had oppressed them; but with this reservation, that such of these as would come over to his established worship, he would receive and incorporate into his church; but the unbelieving part should be utterly extirpated.

1. Yet let me expostulate with thee concerning judgments---] מַשְׁפָּטִים אֶתְּךָ אֲדַבֵּר---This phrase or nearly the same, has occurred twice before, Ch. i. 16. iv. 12. and does again, Ch. lii. 9. where it evidently signifies to *arraign* a criminal, and bring him to a trial for a violation of the laws. Here it must signify a similar, though respectful, inquiry into certain measures of God's providence, how far they correspond with those principles of justice and equity, which we conceive God to have established as the common measure of his own actions as well as ours. This is the only way in which a good and pious man can with any propriety be said to “speak judgments with God,” or bring his action against him.

2. Thou art near in their mouth, but art far from their reins.] By מְכַלִּימַחֲסֵי, as it is written in fifty seven MSS. and eight Editions, we are to understand the secret thoughts and affections of the heart. So

the reins are frequently used in Scripture language ; see Ch. xi. 20. xvii. 10. Ps. vii. 9. xvi. 7. Rev. ii. 23.---Compare Isa. xxix. 13.

3.---my heart to be with thee] Here the marginal translation of our Bible merits the preference, "with thee." For the prophet contrasts the affections of his own heart, which he says were "with God," or set upon him, with the dispositions of those, of whom he had said, that God was far from their reins or inward parts.

4. Because they have said he will not see our latter end] That is, he will not concern himself about rewarding or punishing us hereafter. **אַחֲרֵיתָא**, which is expressly rendered by our translators "a reward," Prov. xxiv. 14, 20. properly signifies the final result or consequence of our actions, (according to which only it can be determined, whether they have been advantageous to us or otherwise. See Ch. xvii. 11. Num. xxiii. 10. xxiv. 20. Prov. xix. 20. xxiii. 18. and more particularly, Ps. xxxvii. 37, 38. where the different end, **אַחֲרֵיתָא**, of the good man and of the wicked is precisely distinguished ; to the good man it is peace ; but to the wicked it is utter destruction. But the inference which bad men are apt to draw from God's past forbearance is, that he is totally regardless and indifferent as to the moral conduct of mankind. Hence promising to themselves the same impunity in future, which they have hitherto experienced, they are led to a free indulgence of all their wicked inclinations. Accordingly the Psalmist complaining, as the prophet does here, of the prosperity of the wicked, represents their behaviour and their principles in terms exactly similar ; Ps. xciv. 5, 6, 7.

They break in pieces thy people, O JEHOVAH,
And thine heritage do they afflict ;
The widow and the stranger do they murder,
And the fatherless they put to death :
For they have said, JEHOVAH will not see,
Neither will the God of Jacob regard.

5. Then how wilt thou chafe thyself with horses] **תַּחֲזֹרֶה** does not properly signify "contending," as it has been commonly rendered, but the effect of contending, being "chafed" or "heated ;" as if it had been more fully expressed, "Then how wilt thou be heated, when thou runnest with horses ?" And the plain meaning of the metaphor is ; "If in contending with men of thine own rank thou hast suffered already some inconvenience ; how much more molestation hast thou room to expect, when it cometh to thy lot to contend, as in the course of thy prophetic mission thou unavoidably wilt, with persons far more considerable in station and power ?" The leading men of the state, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem are meant, whom Jeremiah appears to have offended by the freedom of his opposition, and by whom he was persecuted almost unto death.

Ibid.—In the swelling of Jordan] The ravages of war and hostile invasion are often represented in Scripture under the image of a river rising rapidly above its banks, and carrying all before it. To these inundations the river Jordan was very subject ; and on such occasions, as

we are told (Maundrell's Travels, p. 81.) several sorts of wild beasts, which are wont to harbour among the trees and bushes by the river side, are forced out of their covert, and infest the neighbouring plains. This circumstance is particularly alluded to by the prophet, Ch. xlix. 19. and seems likewise to have been here in his view. For among all the dire effects incident to a country from the approach of a foreign enemy, this is not one of the least formidable, that evil-minded persons within the state are emboldened to throw off all legal restraints, and taking advantage of the general confusion, openly commit the most daring outrages on their fellow citizens, not only with impunity, but often under a pretence of zeal for the public welfare. *Silent leges inter arma*, is a well known adage ; and the prophet found it verified to his cost, when even the authority of the king himself, as we learn from the following history, Ch. xxxviii. 4, 5. was insufficient to protect him from the malice of his persecutors.

6. Rely not upon them that they will speak friendly unto thee] That is, their former behaviour plainly shews, that thou canst not reasonably depend upon them for that countenance and support, which a man naturally looks for from that quarter, against the hostilities of strangers.

7.—the beloved of my soul] ידיוֹת is more properly written in forty six MSS. and nine Editions ידיוֹת. See the first paragraph of the Note on Ch. xi. 15.

9. As the ravenous bird Tseboa—] Bochart (De sacr. animal. Par. I. lib. iii. Cap. 11.) hath undeniably proved, that צִבּוֹר frequently signifies that fierce wild beast called the Hyæna ; but not exclusively ; for the same author admits in another part of his work a species of serpents to be designed by the same name, and that both these animals are so called from the various colours with which their bodies are marked. See Par. II. Lib. iii. Cap. 7. But this learned man has not, I think, so incontrovertibly maintained his opinion, that the Hyæna is here intended ; because in order to make good his assertion, he is obliged to construe עֵיט “a beast” instead of “a bird of prey.” And why not, says he, since the verb עָוַט or עֵיט belongs not to birds only, but to any animal that *rushes on its prey* ? I must confess I see no better reason to the contrary, nor does the nature of language require a better, than that common use, the supreme arbiter in the case, hath restricted it to birds only ; for it does not any where appear, as far as I know, to be used for a beast of prey, which is usually designed by a different word.—“But to shew,” continues Bochart, “that the name of עֵיט belongs not to birds only, צִבּוֹר a bird is sometimes added to it *διακριτικῶς*, as Ezek. xxxix. 4. “I will give thee unto the ravenous birds, לְעֵיט צִבּוֹר ;” every עֵיט not being a bird, but beasts of the ravenous and carnivorous kind being included in that name.” This however shews nothing at all, being a mere *circular* fallacy ; for without previously admitting the truth of the conclusion, that the name עֵיט belongs not to birds only, it does not appear that צִבּוֹר is added *diacritically*, and not rather *pleonas-*

tically, or in some other manner *.—But what seems more probable is, that it is צבוע, and not עיט, which is of ambiguous use, and may signify a species of bird so called from its variegated plumes, as we have already seen it attributed to a species of serpent, as well as to the Hyæna, for a similar reason. And here I shall beg leave to borrow the words of Bochart, which follow those above cited, as much to the purpose. “Nor is it a new thing,” says he, “that the same name should belong in common to a ravenous bird and a carnivorous beast. In Greek, as every one knows, *κρηκας* signifies a species of hawk, *αεμω* a species of eagle, and *αετις* a kite. Yet Oppian enumerates among the different wolves *κρηκον*, *αεμωνα*, and *αετινον*. On the other hand the Greeks call a kite *λαπη* from the similarity of disposition. And why a species of *monadula* (*Anglice*, a jackdaw) is called *λακος*, is owing to its rapacity.” Now these reasons, though they may not prove, as I think they do not, that עיט is a generic name for a ravenous beast as well as a ravenous bird, since the instances adduced are of specific names only in the lowest degree; yet may well serve to evince by analogy, that צבוע may denote a species of bird, (of the eagle or falcon kind perhaps, some of which are known to have beautifully speckled or spotted feathers) as well as the Hyæna, and the serpent so called; and accordingly the generic name דעית, “the bird of prey,” may be added in order to give it its proper discrimination.

It may further be observed in confirmation that דעית צבוע means a ravenous bird, and not a beast, in this place, that in the subsequent part of the verse the birds of prey are called upon to come in a body, distinctly from the beasts of the field, whose attendance is likewise particularly required. This I am sensible might be looked upon as a kind of begging the question, were not the point in a manner determined not only by the text of Ezekiel just now cited, but also by another, Isa. xviii. 6. where both beasts and birds are found joined together in a manner exactly parallel.—Now if דעית be admitted in the second instance in this verse to signify a bird of prey, it is most likely that it bears the same sense in the first instance also. And indeed the context furnishes a good presumption of its so doing. God in the preceding verse had set forth, that his heritage or people had acted towards him as a lion, a particular kind of wild beast; in this he is supposed to liken their behaviour to that of a bird of prey equally fierce and rapacious; hence he calls in return upon other ravenous creatures, birds as well as beasts, meaning the Chaldeans and Babylonians, to come forward and avenge his cause, by falling upon this ungrateful race and devouring them.

As there is no determining with certainty the particular species of

* From a view of the passage Ezek. xxxix. 4. I am inclined to think that דעית there is not a noun, but the infinitive verb with the ל prefixed; for if צבוע דעית signified “to the ravenous birds,” we ought to read afterwards וְלִדְעִיתָּ and to the beasts; but the words seem more properly to be rendered, “I have given thee to be fallen upon by (literally, to the falling upon of) the birds of every kind, and the beasts of the field, for devouring; that is, I have given or appointed thee to be fallen upon and devoured by them.”

bird to which the name צבוע is given, the Hebrew name is therefore left in the version.

11. They have made it a desolation.] I know not how שמור can admit of being rendered passively שמו according to the Roman, or שומר, according to the Alexand. MS. of the LXX. All the other versions seem either to have read שמור, or to have supposed שמו to have been written contractedly for it.

12. Upon all the plains in the wilderness] By שמים במדבר the same I apprehend is meant as by נאות מדבר Ch. ix. 10. namely the smooth plots of greensward in the waste, or uncultivated country, which afford pasturage to the cattle. See notes on Ch. iv. 11. and Ch. ix. 10.

Ibid.—by JEHOVAH's appointment—] ליחור—See notes on Ch. iv. 12. xv. 8, &c.

13.—and shall not be benefited] Twenty MSS. and two Editions read ולי instead of לי before יועל; the Syr. and Vulg. also prefix the Conjunction.

14. Thus saith JEHOVAH] Two MSS. read כי כן, "Surely thus—" and this seems to have been the reading in the copies used by the LXX. who have expressed כי by ου.

16. Then shall they be built in the midst of my people] The acceptance of the believing Gentiles is here clearly intimated, and their union with the Church of God, the middle wall of partition being thrown down. See concerning the actual accomplishment of this prophecy, Ephes. ii. 13—22.

CHAP. XIII.

THIS Chapter contains a single and distinct prophecy, which under two symbols, a linen girdle left to rot, and all vessels being filled with wine, foretels the utter destruction that was destined to fall upon the whole Jewish nation, including the individuals of every rank and denomination, v. 1—14. An exhortation to humiliation and repentance is subjoined, v. 15—21. and the cause of all the evils is assigned in the general corruption and profligacy of manners that prevailed without prospect of amendment; v. 22. to the end. The particular mention of the joint downfall of the king and queen, ver. 18. seems to justify the opinion which ascribes this prophecy to the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim, whose fate with that of his queen is in like manner noticed together; Ch. xxii. 18.

1.—but put it not in water] God explains at ver. 11. what was meant by the symbol of the girdle or sash worn about the loins, namely, his people Israel, whom he purchased and redeemed of old, and attached to himself by a special covenant; that as a girdle serveth for an ornament to the wearer, so they should be subservient to the honour and glory of his name. But it is added, "they would not hearken," or conform to his intentions; therefore being polluted with the guilt of

their disobedience, they were in that state, and on that very account, to be carried into captivity ; conformably to which the prophet was directed not to put the girdle in water, that is, not to wash it, but to leave it in that filthiness, which it had contracted in the wearing.

4.---go to Euphrates] In the margin of our ancient English Bibles it is remarked, that “ because this river Perath or Euphrates was far from Jerusalem, it is evident that this was a vision.” And the generality of the best commentators seem to have been of this opinion. Nor indeed is it very credible, that the prophet should have been sent twice upon a journey of such considerable length and difficulty, to a very great loss of his time, when every purpose would have been answered altogether as well, if the transaction had been represented in vision. The same supposition of a vision must be admitted in other cases also, particularly Ch. xxv. 15---29. for it would be a downright absurdity to believe, that Jeremiah actually went round with a cup in his hand to all those kings and nations there enumerated, and made them drink of its contents. And yet the prophet makes no more distinction in this latter case, than in that now before us, between mental and bodily action. The reason of which in both cases most probably was, that as to the matter in hand it made no difference, whether the performances related were visionary or real ; for either way they served equally to represent the events, which it was God’s pleasure to make known. In like manner St Paul, who says of himself, that he was caught up once into the third heaven, and another time into paradise, where he heard things beyond the power of utterance, was at the same time himself left in a state of uncertainty, whether he was in the body, or out of the body ; but though he could not decide this point, he was not in the least degree doubtful of the truth of what was then revealed to him. 2 Cor. xii. 2, 3, 4.—Bochart however supposes, that Jeremiah’s journeys and all the transactions were real ; but that by פְּרָתַר is to be understood אֶפְרַתָּה, *Ephrata*, a town not far distant from Jerusalem ; and supports his conjecture by saying, that the elision of the first letter or syllable is not uncommon ; and that when the Euphrates is meant, the word נָהָר, *river*, always precedes.—But supposing that to be the case, the symbolical representation would not be near so perfect, as wanting that allusion to the place of the captivity of the Jews, which is to be found in the river Euphrates, emphatically called, “ The rivers of Babylon,” Ps. cxxxvii. 1.

9.—exceedingly] חָרֵב is probably the adjective רָב used adverbially with the article הַ, to denote the superlative degree ; See Ps. li. 4. where חָרֵב is adopted by the Masoretes instead of חֲרִיבִי, and is the reading found in twenty seven MSS. and three Editions.

12. And they will say unto thee, Do we not know, &c.] This answer, which God foretels would be made by the people to the foregoing denunciation, seems to imply that by a wilful mistake they would put a literal construction upon his words, as if he had meant to tell them of a plentiful vintage that was coming on, which would fill all their wine vessels ; and of this they claim to be as good judges as he from the

promising appearance of the vineyards. "Do you tell us this as a piece of news, or a supernatural discovery? Is it not evident to us as well as to you?" But the prophet is directed to deal more plainly with them, and to tell them that the wine he meant was not such as would exhilarate, but such as would intoxicate; being no other than what would be poured out of the wine cup of God's fury to the subversion of all ranks and orders of men among them. Compare Ch. xxv. 15—29. and see Bp. Lowth's notes on Isa. i. 22. li. 21.

13. in David's stead—] This is evidently the literal construction of וְלִדָּוִד, the particle לִ signifying *vice, loco*, "in the stead of." See Noldius.

16. Before it grows dark] יִשְׁכַּח. Three and twenty MSS. and three Editions read יִשְׁכַּח, according to which our English translators have rendered, "before he cause the darkness." But the more general reading is שְׁכַח, the future in *Kal* of שָׁכַח, which signifies "to be or grow dark." This seems rather preferable, and is conformable to the version of the LXX. Syr. and Vulgate, "before it grows dark;" that is, before the time of darkness or distress comes on; darkness being a common emblem of distress or misery.

Ibid.—the mountains of gloominess] By הַר נֶשֶׁךְ I imagine those caverns and holes in the mountains are meant, which the Jews were wont to make use of for burying places; the gloomy shade of which probably gave rise to that expression we meet with both here and elsewhere, "the shadow of death." The prophet Isaiah makes use of much the same images, Isa. lix. 9, 10. where he represents the people as thus complaining of the wretchedness of their situation:

We look for light, but behold darkness!
For brightness, but we walk in obscurity.
We grope for the wall like the blind,
Even as those that are eyeless do we grope:
We stumble at midday, as in the dusk,
In desolate places, like the dead.

Our translators seem rightly to have derived אֶשְׁמִי in the last of these lines from אָשַׁח, *to make desolate*; and the "desolate places" probably intend the same as "the dark mountains," those solitary and gloomy mansions, at which when "the dead" arrive, they may by a poetical image be supposed to stumble because of the darkness, and to fall so as never to rise more. Compare Ps. xliv. 20. cxliii. 3.

Ibid. It there be turned, &c.] The Masoretes for יִשְׁכַּח substitute וְשִׁיחַ; and so it is found in sixteen MSS. and four Editions. This variation affords ground to suspect a mistake in the text; but it is probable that the true reading was neither יִשְׁכַּח nor וְשִׁיחַ, but יִשְׁוֹחַ, the future in *Niphal*, which the sense seems to require; and is indeed only a transposition of the ו and י in וְשִׁיחַ. The LXX. render וְשִׁמְרוּ, and none of the ancient versions express more than one verb.

17.—whilst ye are in secure 'places] בְּמַסְתָּרִים — מַסְתָּר in *Hiphil* signifies to *secure* or *protect* from danger or evil; Ps. xvii. 8. xxxi. 21.

lxiv. 2. &c. and both סֶחֶר and מִסְחָר, being nouns, denote a *place of security*; see Deut. xxxii. 38. Ps. xxxi. 21. lxi. 5. cxix. 114. Isa. iv. 6. Jer. xlix. 10. All the ancient versions, and the modern ones, as far as I know, are agreed in connecting בְּמִסְחָרִים with the words that follow; but it seems evident to me, that the best sense arises from joining it with the preceding context; the prophet telling the people, that if they would not take warning in time, whilst they were still secure and unhurt, and had it in their power to prevent the threatened evils by a sincere repentance, all he could do for them would be to sympathize with them, and bewail the calamities they brought upon their own heads.

Ibid.—from forth of its body] The LXX. Chald. and Vulg. seem to have taken גִּוּר for גִּאּוּר, and our English translators have accordingly rendered it, “pride.” None seem to have perceived that גִּוּר is a compound of גו, *a body*, and the affix pronoun ו; and that the meaning is no other, than that the soul should shew its internal grief “from the face of its body,” מִפְּנֵי גִוּר, that is, by the outward signs of bodily weeping; which answers to the parallel line, “And mine eye shall run down with tears.”

18.—Humble yourselves, sit ye down] That sitting was a posture of humiliation under circumstances of affliction and distress, see Judg. xx. 26. Job ii. 8. Isa. iii. 26. See Bp Lowth’s note on the last cited passage; and see Harmer’s Observat. Ch. vi. Obs. 25.

Ibid.—he will cause to fall from your heads] יִרַר can neither have מִרְאשׁוֹתֵיכֶם nor עֲטֹרֹת for its subject for obvious grammatical reasons. I apprehend it to be written contractedly for יִרַר, the 3d person singular of the fut. in *Hiphil*, whose subject is יְחֻזָּר found in the preceding context. ראש may be supposed to have a plural with a feminine termination, ראשׁוֹת, as well as a masculine, ראשִׁים; in which case ראשׁוֹת seems to signify the bolsters, pillows, or cushions, on which the head rested in lying down; and upon which the regal ornaments were laid. See Gen. xxviii. 11, 18. 1 Sam. xix. 13, 16. xxvi. 7, 11, 12, 16. 1 Kings xix. 6. Twenty eight MSS. and six Editions read at large מִרְאשׁוֹתֵיכֶם.

19. The cities of the south—] Judah lying south in respect of Chaldaea, which in the next verse is characterized by the name of “the north,” the “cities of the south” may mean the cities of Judah in general. Or they may mean those cities in particular, which lay in the southern parts of Judah, at the greatest distance from the enemy; which yet were subjected to the common calamity, as well as those which were nearer at hand. And this suits rather better with the sense of the next line. By their being “shut up” is meant that they were uninhabited, and of course the gates were kept shut, and not opened for the admission of passengers to and fro.

Ibid. The captivity of Judah is fully effected, the captivity of one and all] הַגְּלַת יְחֻזָּר כָּלָה הַגְּלַת שְׁלֹמֹמִים.—It is hardly possible to admit of the translation given of these words either by the ancient or modern interpreters, although they seem not to deviate widely from

their general sense. **זגלת** is generally considered as the 3d pers. sing. of the preter in *Hophal* from **גלל**. But this in the masculine is **זגלל**, in the feminine, **זגלתה**. Nor can **כלה** in any wise agree with **יחורו**, either as the feminine of **כל**, or as having the feminine affix **ה**; because **יחורו** is masculine. But **זגלת** is the noun **גלל** in *regime* with the article prefixed, and **כלה** is a verb which properly signifies, “is fully wrought” or “brought about.” As for **שלומים**, or **שלמים**, as it stands in twenty MSS. and five Editions, I cannot conceive it to be used adverbially, or in any wise like it.. **שלם** signifies *full, complete, entire*; so that I apprehend **שלמים** may very fairly be taken for the integral parts, which constitute the whole, taken together, and not some without the other.

20. Where is the flock that was given thee—] Nations and cities are often spoken of under the figure of distinct female personages, as the daughter of Judah, the daughter of Sion, or Jerusalem, the daughter of Tyre, Egypt, Edom, Babylon, &c. The single female then, that is here addressed, must be the daughter of Judah, who is asked with a sarcastical sneer, what was become of all the numerous multitudes which God had given her formerly, constituting, like flocks of sheep, the national wealth and glory.

21. Seeing it is thou that teachest, &c.] Thirty one MSS. and seven Editions read **למדת**; but **למדתי** seems as likely to have been the true reading, if the **י** be taken as paragogic to the feminine participle *Benoni*; of which frequent instances occur; see Ch. xxii. 23. li. 13. and Buxtorf. Thes. Gram. Lib. i. Cap. 13. Annot. ad particip. præsens.—Some have understood the alliances contracted heretofore with the Assyrians by Ahaz, and the conduct of Hezekiah towards the ambassadors of the king of Babylon, to be here alluded to, as having paved or prepared the way for the future invasion of the country by the Chaldeans. But I rather think that the irreligious and wicked manners of the people are principally designed; which put them out of the protection of Almighty God, and rendered them an easy conquest to any enemy that came against them. Thus they taught their enemies to oppress and to be lords over them; against whom, but for their own faults, they might have maintained their security and independence.

Ibid.—a woman in travail] For **לדו** all the ancient versions seem to have read **ילדו** or **יולדו**, the **י** having been in all probability since lost by accident. Six MSS. still retain the **י** in **לדו**, though transposed out of its proper place; unless we should think **לילדו** a more likely reading, which word occurs, Isa. xxxvii. 3.

22.—have these things befallen me—] For **קראני** twenty one MSS. and two Editions read **קרואני**.

Ibid.—thy skirts are uncovered, thy heels are left bare] This is a periphrasis for being forced into captivity; it being the barbarous custom of conquerors in ancient times to treat their captives with such indignities, in conducting them to the place of their intended residence. See Isa. iii. 17. xx. 4. xlvii. 2. 3. Nahum iii. 5. **דמם** implies “stripping” or “tearing off by violence.”

23.---a Cushite] It has been a matter of great dispute among the learned, whether the Cushites were Ethiopians or Arabians. Bochart among many others is thoroughly persuaded, that the latter are always designed in Scripture by that appellation. Phaleg. Lib. iv. cap. 2. I am much inclined to be of his opinion; not hereby supposing that all the Arabians are so denominated, but principally those who bordered upon Egypt along the banks of the Red sea, and whom we find closely connected with the Egyptians; Ch. xlvi. 9. Isa. xx. 3, 4, 5. xxxvii. 9. And this situation is, I think, indisputably confirmed by 2 Chron. xxi. 16. where God is said to "have stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and of the Arabians, that were on the confines of the Cushites." Here we find a distinction between the Arabians properly so called and the Cushites. But by the Arabians, who joined with the Philistines, it is most natural to understand those of Arabia Petraea, who together with the Philistines were on the confines of the Cushites, the people inhabiting along the western coasts of the Red sea; but could not in any wise be said to be contiguous to the Ethiopians, since the whole length of Egypt lay between them. But the text now before us is principally insisted on by those, who hold the Cushites to have been Ethiopians, as alluding to the sable skins of the natives of Ethiopia. It is probable however that the Cushites, that lay along the Red sea, if not altogether black, were of a much more swarthy complexion than the Jews, as approaching so much nearer to the sun, and from their manner of living being exposed so much more to the rays of it. Our ingenious traveller, Sandys, speaking of the Moors that now inhabit Egypt, and who, he says, were descended of the Arabians, (meaning no doubt the Cushites we are speaking of) expressly describes them to be "tawny of complexion." Sandys's Travels, Book ii.

24.---the wind of the desert] "The most vehement storms, to which Judea was subject, came from the great desert country to the south of it." See Bp. Lowth's Note on Isa. xxi. 1.

23 Then may ye prevail with them] This is clearly the sense of תוכלו; See Ch. xx. 7. xxxviii. 22. and by rendering thus we find the proper antecedent of אפיצו in the next line.

26. Therefore have I also uncovered, &c.] Mr Lowth on ver. 22. observes, that it was the usual punishment inflicted on lewd women to strip them naked, and expose them to the eyes of the world. This was a way of publishing their faults to their utter disgrace; as was the avowed design of God in the present instance.

27. Thou hast devised thy whoredom] תמתי I take not to be a noun, but a verb from תמתי. It is hereby designed to reproach Jerusalem with having practised her idolatry in such a deliberate manner, as shewed it to proceed from a steady attachment, which at the same time she was at no pains to disguise, having chosen the most public places for the scene of her wickedness. Seven MSS. and two Editions read תמתיך in the plural.

Ibid.---thou wilt not be clean] Our English Version supposes an interrogation here; "Wilt thou not be made clean?" but all the ancient

versions understand the words **לֹא תִטְהַר** as simply declarative of the cause for which the woe was pronounced. The LXX. render, **οτι ου μακαρισθης**. The Syr. also expresses the causal particle.

Ibid.—How much longer shall it be before thou wilt ?] In the margin of our English Bible the words are literally translated, “After when yet ?” But this is manifestly an elliptical form of speech, and requires to be supplied by a repetition of the foregoing words, **תִּטְהַר לֹא**. “After what time yet wilt thou not be clean ?” that is, How much longer shall it be before thou wilt ?

CHAP. XIV.

I CANNOT find any mark, internal or external, whereby to ascertain the date of the prophecy delivered in this and the following Chapter. Some have imagined, that the mention made of false prophets and their predictions at ver. 13. of this Chapter according with what is said, Ch. xxiii. 9—32. is a proof that both prophecies belonged nearly to the same period of time, and the latter of them was undoubtedly delivered in the reign of Jehoiakim, as we shall see hereafter. But from this circumstance of agreement nothing can with certainty be inferred, because we find the like mention made of false prophets, both in preceding times ; see Ch. v. 31. and in those that are subsequent ; Ch. xxvii. 14, &c. As for what is said of the drought, and of the calamities of sword and famine, it is evidently spoken prophetically of what should happen in future, without limitation of distance. Nothing therefore appearing to the contrary, the presumption is in favour of the order in which these Chapters are found at present ; and we are justified in admitting, that this prophecy may have been delivered in the beginning of Jehoiakim's reign, not long after the foregoing, since the subject matter will equally fall in with this season as with any other.

The six first verses of this Chapter foretel great distress that should be occasioned in Judah by means of a long drought. The prophet in the name of the people makes a confession of sins, and supplicates the divine mercy ; v. 7—9. God declareth his resolution to punish, and will not be intreated ; v. 10—12. Jeremiah complains of false prophets, who amuse the people with contrary predictions ; God disclaimeth them, and threatens both them, and the people who listened to them, with sword and famine, v. 13—18. The prophet renews his supplications in the people's name and behalf, v. 19. to the end of the Chapter.

2. Because of the drought.—] **עַל־דְּבַר חֲבָצֵרוֹת**—These words are usually taken in connexion with the preceding ; but I have detached them for the following reasons : first, because the word of **JEHOVAH**, in the prophecy which follows, comprehends other matters, and not the drought singly ; secondly, **עַל־דְּבַר** more properly signifies *because* or *by means of*, and thus specifies the direct and immediate cause of the mourning of Judah ; and 3dly, the hemistichs are hereby better distinguished.

The word **חִבְצֵרוֹת**, which our English translators have rendered "the dearth," is derived from **בָּצַר**, which is used in the same sense as **עָצַר**, to *withhold* or *restrain*; so that it might indeed signify a withholding of provisions, or making a scarcity of them; but from the context it is obvious, that a withholding of rain, or "a drought," is rather intended; as **בָּצַר** is also rendered, Ch. xvii. 8. and as all the ancient versions have here represented. The plural number is adopted, most probably to denote that the usual showers were withholden, not for one season only, but for a continued succession of them; as was the case in the reign of king Ahab, 1 Kings xvii. 1. when according to the reckoning of St James, Ch. v. 17. "it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months." At what time the great drought here mentioned took place, we find not among the records of history. Some intimations of a like kind are given, Ch. iii. 3. see the note there. That it was a calamity incident to the land of Israel, and applied as a punishment for sin, may be seen from comparing Deut. xi. 17. xxviii. 23. 1 Kings viii. 35.

Ibid.—the gates thereof languish; They are in deep mourning] The gates of cities being places of public resort, where the courts of justice were held, and other common business transacted, seem here to be put for the persons that meet there; in like manner as when we say, "the court is in mourning," we mean the persons that attend the court or king's palace. So that by this passage we are to understand, that all the persons who appear in public are dejected, and put on black, or mourning, on account of the national distress.

3.—their younger ones] Six MSS. at present, one of which is the ancient Bodleian one, No 1. and four others, as they stood originally, confirm the Masoretic reading **צְעִירֵיהֶם**; as do also the oldest printed Bible, and one other Edition in its marginal notes. Four other MSS. read **צְעִירָהֶם**. The LXX. render *τῶν νεωτέρων αὐτῶν*, "the younger members of their family," or their children. For we find, that in the simplicity of ancient times the children of considerable persons, particularly the daughters, were employed in the menial offices of drawing water for the use of the family and of the flocks. Gen. xxiv. 13, 15. xxix. 6—10. Exod. ii. 16. In like manner Homer describes the daughter of king Alcinous going in person with her maids to the river to wash the clothes of the family. *Odyss.* z. 50, &c.

Ibid.—They covered their heads] See note on Ch. ii. 37. Two MSS. omit the conjunction **וְ** in **וַיִּכְסֻּם**, as in the next verse; and the use of the *Asyndeton* seems not only more elegant, but more conformable to grammatical rule in this place; for the **וְ** would regularly have a converse force.

5. When the hind also had calved in the fields, Then it was deserted] The LXX. and Theodotion render as if they had read, **וַיִּעָזֹב** **אֵילָוִת בְּשָׂדֵהָ יָלְדָּה**—And indeed as the text stands at present, we are obliged to have recourse to the sense of the preceding words, rather than the words themselves, for a subject of **וַיִּעָזֹב**, "it was then deserted;" **יֵד**, namely what she had just calved, was deserted. But if we

could suppose a mistake in the word בשרו, and by the slightest alteration imaginable substitute בשרי, it would clear up every difficulty, and the sense of the passage would be highly improved. בשרי signifies *her own flesh*, one of her own kind, a part of herself, in whose preservation she is interested by the strongest impulse of nature; yet even this is abandoned through dire necessity. Near relations are called one's own flesh. "He is our brother and our flesh." Gen. xxxvii. 27. Much more may the offspring of a female be called "her own flesh." I submit this however as a mere conjecture only; as the corruption, if one, must have been of a date prior to the oldest versions; and there is no trace to be met with of any thing like the alteration proposed. But of the substitution of the ו and ר for each other by mistake we have numberless instances; and perhaps there is no mistake more easy to be fallen into.

6.—the plains] שפיה—See note on Ch. iv. 11, 12.

Ibid. They snuffed up the wind like dragons] They sucked in the air for want of water to cool their internal heat. Bochart (De sacr. Animal. P. I. Lib. iii. c. 16.) observes that the comparison to dragons or great serpents is very just; for Ælian Cap. ii. 19. describes these animals as standing daily for some hours with the head erect, and the mouth wide open towards the sky, and by the force of their breath, *αἰὲρ ὁρῶντες*, as by an attractive charm, drawing to them not only the air, but the very birds as they fly along. Varro thus speaks of the Ox,

Et bos suspiciens cœlum (mirabile visu !)

Naribus aerium patulis decerpsit odorem.

And is imitated by Virgil, Georg. I. 375.

————— bucula cœlum

Suspiciens patulis captavit naribus auras.

The same author, Bochart, adds, that "the eyes of the wild asses are properly noticed, as being by nature extremely sharp-sighted." But for want of nourishment these must fail and be exhausted.

7.—do thou act with a regard to thine own name] That is, deal not with us according to our deservings, but so as not to give occasion to strangers to speak evil of thy name, to question thy power, wisdom, or goodness. So God says, Ezek. xx. 9, 14, 22, 44. that amidst the various provocations he had received, he had still acted uniformly upon this principle.

8. as a stranger—and as a traveller—] That is, as one who, having no permanent interest in the land, is little concerned for its welfare.

9.—as one in a deep sleep] נרדם is a word that occurs no where else in the Hebrew, nor is acknowledged by the kindred dialects. The LXX. seem to have preserved the true reading, נרדם, *νερδω*, *somno obrutus*. In one MS. the ו is upon a rasure. Of God it is said, Ps. cxxi. 3, 4. that he is a guardian and protector, that never slumbereth nor sleepeth.

10. Their feet] Four MSS. read **וְרַגְלֵיהֶם** with the conjunction; "And their feet have they not refrained."

Ibid. When JEHOVAH bruised them not] All the ancient versions, as well as our English one, consider **רָצַח** as formed from **רָצַח**, to *accept* or *delight in*. But it seems rather to belong to the verb **רָצַח**, to *bruise* or *crush*.

11.--in a friendly manner] **טוֹבוֹת** denotes a kind, benevolent and friendly disposition in the prophet, inducing him to wish and promote the welfare of the people as far as it lay in his power. And such seems to be the general sense of **לְטוֹבוֹת** in the Old Testament.

13.---assuredly---] **אִמָּה** is here also used adverbially, as Ch. x. 10.

14.---and vanity---] For **וְאִלֻּלִי** the Masoretes read **וְאִלֻּלִי**, which is confirmed by sixteen MSS. and three Editions.

Ibid. And the guile---] For **וְתַרְמִית** the Masoretes read **וְתַרְמִית**, and so do thirteen MSS. and four Editions, with the Syr. Chald. and Vulgate. But the LXX, render in the plural number, *καὶ πρᾶξεις*.

16.---I will pour upon them their own wickedness] That is, by metonymy, the ill effects and consequences of it.

18. Go trafficking about the city] The meaning is, they go about with their false doctrines and lying predictions, as pedlars do with their wares, seeking their own gain. St Paul characterizes such sort of teachers in much the same terms; *παραπαιδευτὴς ἢ παιδευγία, καὶ δολοφίας τοῦ λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ*. 2 Cor. iv. 2. And St Peter says of them, *ἢ πλῆθος πλαστοῦς λόγοις ὑμᾶς ἀπορροισίαι*. 2 Pet. ii. 3.

Ibid.---and take no knowledge] They pay no regard to the miseries in which their country is involved, but act as if they were totally insensible of them. See the verb **יָדַע** used in this sense, Isai. i. 3. lviii. 3.

19. We look for peace] Here the construction is more marked by the preceding words **לִנְיָ מָרָא**, than it is Ch. viii. 15. for the translation might proceed thus, "a looking for peace, &c." or, more at large, "Wherefore is there to us a looking for peace, &c.?" See note on Ch. viii. 15.

20. And the iniquity of our fathers---] The Syr. and Chald. read **וְעֵין** and it is not improbable that the conjunction may have been lost in the **ו** preceding. But if there be no conjunction, then I conceive that **וְשַׁעֲנִי** may be considered as a verb, and construed thus, "We acknowledge, O JEHOVAH, that we have wrought wickedly the iniquity of our fathers;" that is, have practised over again the same wickedness, of which our fathers set the example.

CHAP. XV.

To the supplications at the close of the preceding Chapter God replies by declaring, that not even the intercession of his favoured servants Moses and Samuel should divert him from executing his purpose of vengeance against Judah, which is denounced in terms of great severity ; v. 1--9. At ver. 10. Jeremiah breaks out into a passionate exclamation on account of the odium and persecution that was brought upon him. God reproves him for speaking slightly of the divine aid, the benefit of which he had already experienced ; and threatens him with the loss of his fortunes as a punishment for his sins ; v. 11---14. The prophet deprecates the ill effects of God's displeasure, representing the cheerful readiness with which he had obeyed the divine call, and the continual uneasiness he had felt in contemplating the melancholy subject of his commission ; v. 15---18. Assurances of protection and security are renewed to him, on condition of obedience and fidelity on his part ; v. 19---to the end.

1. Send them away from before me, and let them depart] That is as much as to say, Tell them to come no more to me with their supplications, but to go out of my sanctuary. So Isai. i. 12, 13. "When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hands? Tread my courts no more." A strong declaration of determined resentment !

2. for death—] It is obvious from the foregoing enumeration, Ch. xiv. 12. that מָוֶת "death" here means "the pestilence." So also Ch. xviii. 21.

4.—to vexation] "According to the Masora we have here a metathesis of a letter, לְזוּעָרָא for לְזוּעָרָא : but the word in the text bears a greater affinity to its root זָעַר, and is in general more agreeable to the genius of the language than the proposed lection." Dr DURELL.

Twenty MSS. and three Editions concur with the abovementioned Masoretic reading. But though the word is read with the like variation in other places, the Samaritan text represents it Deut. xxviii. 25. as we read here, לְזוּעָרָא ; and זָעַר occurs Isa. xxviii. 19. without any opposition from the Masoretes, or any variation in the MSS. except that in one MS. it is contractedly written זָעַר.—But it is more material to observe, that the sense in which our translators have generally rendered לְזוּעָרָא, "to be removed," or "for a removing," seems not at all competent to it. For the verb זָעַר signifies to *move*, *agitate*, or *disquiet* ; but not to *remove* or *transfer* from one place to another. Accordingly זָעַר is rightly rendered "a vexation," Isa. xxviii. 19. and לְזוּעָרָא, "to trouble," 2 Chron. xxix. 8.

Ibid.—Because of all that he did] Instead of עַל-אֲשֶׁר ; all the ancient versions appear to have read אֲשֶׁר עַל-כֵּן ; and so it is found in the text of three MSS. and in the margin of one more.

5.—to solicit for thy welfare] לְשׂאֵל לְשִׁלְמֶךָ—This phrase

2 Sam. viii. 10. seems to signify simply, "to enquire after one's welfare." The meaning here is, "Who will go out of his way to shew thee any office of humanity; either to enquire after thy welfare, or to petition God for it?" Either sense is admissible.

7. I am weary of forbearing them] Our translators have rendered, "I am weary of repenting;" deriving **חנחם** from **נחם**; and the sense is a very unexceptionable one, as God is said to *repent*, when he remits in mercy the punishment due to sin, and is moved by some sufficient reason not to execute his threatened vengeance. But in this place I am rather inclined to follow the LXX. and Syr. which seem to have considered **חנחם** as the infinitive *Hiphil*, from **נחח**, with the affix **ח**, and signifying, to "leave them unpunished," or "unmolested."

Ibid. With my whirlwind---] **שער** with a *Sin* signifies a storm or whirlwind, the same as **סער**; and this seems more apposite here, than to render **הארץ** **בשערי**, "in the gates of the land."

Ibid. From their ways---] Two MSS. and the Syr. version read **ומורכיהם**, "BUT, or YET, from their ways, &c." There is however a like ellipsis of the disjunctive particle, ver 1, and again, ver 10. of this Chapter.

8. Their widows have been multiplied by me] Eleven MSS. and three Editions read with the Masora **אלמנותיו**; besides eight MSS. more, which read contractedly **לי-אלמנותיו**, "by" or "through me," that is, according to my disposition or appointment. See Note on Ch. iv. 12.

Ibid.---against their mother---] **אל-לחם על אם** signifies here "a mother city;" see 2 Sam. xx. 19. and **לחם** is used as a possessive pronoun. One MS. reads **לחם**- which being interpreted *war* or *fighting*, would afford a good sense. The LXX. totally omit **לחם**.

Ibid.—a chosen one—] Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is undoubtedly here designed, who might be called "a chosen one," as being selected by God to be the instrument and executioner of his vengeance. In the margin of our Bibles **בחור** is rendered "a young man;" and this also would very properly characterize the same person. For Josephus (Contra Apion. Lib. i.) cites from Berosus, the Chaldean historian, a passage to the following purport; that "Nabopolassar king of Babylon, hearing that the provinces of Egypt, Cœle Syria, and Phœnice had revolted, and being himself infirm through age, sent a part of his forces under his son Nebuchadnezzar, then in the prime of youth, **οὗτος ἦν ὁ νεανίας**, by whom those provinces were again reduced." This was the expedition said to have been undertaken by him in the third year of Jehoiakim king of Judah; in the course of which, after having first defeated the Egyptian army at Carchemish, he laid siege to Jerusalem, took, and plundered it, carrying away much spoil and many captives to Babylon. See Ch. xlv. 2. Dan. i. 1, 2, 3. 2 Kings xxiv. 1.

Ibid.—an enemy and terrors.] None of the ancient versions except

the Vulgate seem to have conceived עיר to signify "a city" in this place ; nor is it possible to construe the text as it is done there, and in our English version. It is most probable that עיר is either a mistake for ער, *an enemy*, or that it is sometimes used in that sense. And עיר ובהלות may by an *Hendiadys* stand for "a terrible enemy."

9. She that hath born seven—] See 1 Sam. ii. 5. SEVEN is put for *many* ; and the multitude of the inhabitants or children of Jerusalem, the mother city, is here alluded to.

Ibid. Her sun is gone down—] Literally, as the text now stands, "She is gone down, her sun, while it is yet day." But the Masora reads שמשו, instead of באה, and has the sanction of four MSS. Houbigant however insists that שמש is both feminine and masculine.

10. For thou hast born me a man of strife—] The prophet here complains of the opposition he met with from his countrymen for speaking unwelcome truths, which had occasioned him as much uneasiness as if he had engaged in the most invidious of all occupations, and the most likely to engender strife, that of lending and borrowing upon usury. The discriptive particle is here elliptically wanting before ולא נשיתי ; as has been already noted on ver. 7. One MS. reads ולא.

11. They have reviled me, all of them, saith JEHOVAH.] מקללוני cannot certainly be right ; for it does not appear how such a word can be formed. I apprehend therefore that the reading should be קללוני ; and that they are the words not of Jeremiah, but of God ; who, resenting what had fallen from the mouth of the prophet, complains that the whole nation one and all, his prophet as well as the rest, had spoken reproachfully of him ; and then proceeds to remind the prophet what an especial care he had taken of him.

Ibid. Have I not brought thee off advantageously ?] For שרותך the Masoretic reading is שריתך, and it is countenanced by five MSS. and three Editions. But there are many other variations. Nineteen MSS. read שרותיך ; twelve שריתך ; one שארותיך ; one שארתך ; one שאריתך ; and one שאריתך. But among all these שריתך seems the most probable, which coming from שרר, to *set loose*, or *let go*, may very properly be understood of God's extricating or bringing the prophet out of all the dangers and difficulties he had hitherto encountered, לשׁוּב, happily or in an advantageous manner ; so that he had little reason to censure or reproach his patron and benefactor.

12. Shall he break iron in pieces—] The subject of ירֵב seems to be "the enemy," וְהָאֵיב, mentioned in the preceding verse ; and the meaning may be, "Shall the enemy crush or overpower one whom I have made like the hardest iron and brass ?" alluding to what God had said to the prophet when he first engaged him in his service ; Ch. i. 18.—"Iron from the north" is perhaps justly supposed to denote in a primary sense that species of hardened iron, or steel, called in Greek χαλῦψ, from the Chalybes, a people bordering on the Euxine sea, and consequently lying to the north of Judea, by whom the art of tempering steel is said to have been discovered. Strabo speaks of this people as known in former times by the name of Chalybes, but afterwards cal-

led Chaldæi ; and mentions their iron mines. Lib. xii. p. 549. These however were a different people from the Chaldeans, who were united with the Babylonians.

13. Not for price—] That is, not making thee any compensation, but inflicting these losses upon thee as a punishment for thy sins.

Ibid. But for all thy sins] The ancient Bodl. MS. No. 1. and one more, with the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. omit the conjunction ו. The Syr. and Chald. also omit בל, and seem to have read only בְּחַטֹּאתֶיךָ. "Because of thy sins."

14. And I will cause [them] to pass with thine enemies] The same substantives וְהַעֲבַרְתִּיךָ וְאֶצְרֶתִּיךָ serve for accusatives to this verb וְהַעֲבַרְתִּי, as to the verb אֶצְרֶן in the preceding verse ; Thy substance and thy treasures will I give for spoil -- -- -- and will cause *them* to pass with thine enemies into a land, &c. ;" that is, I will suffer thine enemies to carry them away. There appears therefore no internal cause to suspect the authenticity of the text. But the LXX. and Syr. for וְהַעֲבַרְתִּי read וְהַעֲבַרְתִּיךָ, "And I will cause thee to serve ;" whether they actually found it so in their Hebrew copies, as it now appears in one MS. and perhaps in two more ; or whether they thought it necessary to bring the text to a conformity in this instance with Ch. xvii. 4. Of these two passages however it may be observed, that though there is a similarity between them in some respects, there is a difference in others, and intentionally no doubt, because they relate to different objects, the one to an individual, the other to the Jewish nation taken collectively ; so that what might be true of the one, would not hold equally with respect to the other. Thus the Jewish nation were made to serve their enemies in a foreign land ; but not so Jeremiah, who retired, when he left his own country, into Egypt, where he was not under the Babylonish dominion. But all that he had was carried off by the Babylonians with the rest of the spoil ; so that for good reasons the present reading of וְהַעֲבַרְתִּי seems to be authentic. Seven MSS. and one Edition notwithstanding read וְהַעֲבַרְתִּי, and one MS. וְהַעֲבַרְתִּיךָ. Also in the subsequent part of the verse five MSS. for עַל עוֹלָם read עַל עוֹלָם in like conformity with Ch. xvii. 4. But this last variation is not countenanced by any of the ancient versions, which seem uniformly to have been made after עַל עוֹלָם.

15. Within the length of thine anger comprehend me not] There is no doubt that אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם denotes "slowness to anger," Exod. xxxiv. 6. &c. but that sense is not suitable here. But אֶרֶךְ is applied to space as well as time ; and denotes *a length or extent of limits* ; and the prophet may be understood to pray, that God would not so far lengthen or carry forward his resentment, as to comprehend him personally within the limits of it, who had already incurred the reproach of men for his zeal in God's service. Our old Version renders, "take me not away in the continuance of thine anger ;" which differs not very greatly from the sense I have proposed ; the prophet seeming to think, that during a long course of God's anger against his people, he himself, however innocent, might naturally be involved in those sufferings,

which were intended for the punishment of the guilty. But the former translation seems preferable.

16.—and I entertained them] *Et suscipiebam eos.* So Jerome represents the translation of Symmachus. In which case **וּמְכַלֵּם** seems to be derived from **כָּלַל**, *complecti*. And it is certain that none of the ancient versions, except the Vulgate, understand **וּמְכַלֵּם** as belonging to the verb **אָכַל**, *to eat*. The prophet says of himself, that when God's commands were communicated to him, he instantly received them with cordiality and goodwill; and was rejoiced at the honour done him in being appointed the servant and messenger of such a master.

Ibid. And thy commission—] All the ancient versions read **דְּבַרְךָ** in the singular number, according to the reading of the Masora, and of eleven MSS. and two Editions.

17. I have not sat in the assembly of those that make merry] **מְשַׁחֲמִים**, which our translators have here rendered, “mockers,” is more properly translated, “them that make merry,” Ch. xxx. 19. xxxi. 4. In the preceding verse the prophet had declared, that he had felt great satisfaction at first in being appointed to the office of God's messenger. But his joy was not of long continuance; the tenor of his commission was such as to affect him, like St Paul, and much upon the same account, with “great heaviness and continual sorrow of heart;” Rom. ix. 2. so that renouncing all cheerful society, he indulged a solitary melancholy, in prospect of the dire effects of God's indignation against his unhappy country.

Ibid.—because of thy hand] “The hand of God” upon a prophet often means the impulse of the prophetic spirit. 1 Kings xviii. 46. 2 Kings iii. 15. Ezek. i. 3. iii. 14, 22, &c. &c.

18. Wilt thou be altogether unto me as the lying of waters, &c.] These words, I think, may be thus paraphrased, “Wilt thou frustrate and disappoint my hopes, as the waters of a spring, that fail in a dry season, do the hopes of those who are thirsty, and seek for them in vain to allay their thirst?”

On this passage DR DURELL has the following note, “As **תַּחֲוִיר** is equally the third pers. femin. as the second masc. of the same verb, **חָרַח**, I would rather make **מַחְרִי** “my wound” the subject of the verb, than God. A wound alternately healing and rankling may not improperly be compared to “a liar.” But for a prophet of the true God to address his Creator under that idea, seems to me to border on profaneness. I would therefore render, “It is altogether to me as a liar, &c.” DR DURELL.

I have produced the above remark of my late pious and learned friend as being certainly ingenious, and corresponding with the LXX. and Vulgate versions. There appears not however to me that profaneness in the prophet's expression, which the Doctor supposes; but a degree of impatience only, which is duly checked in the following reply. But I cannot help bringing forward another citation made by Mr Harmer (Ch. v. Obs. 24. Note) from one of Sir John Chardin's MSS. concerning a delusive appearance of water in the desarts of Arabia,

which, as Mr H. supposes, may be referred to in this place. "There is a splendour or vapour, says Chardin, in the plains of the desert, formed by the repercussion of the rays of the sun from the sand, that appears like a vast lake. Travellers of the desert, afflicted by thirst, are drawn in by such appearances, but coming near, find themselves mistaken; it seems to draw back as they advance, or quite vanishes. I have seen this in several places. Q. Curtius takes notice of it in speaking of Alexander the Great in Susiana."—With this allusion in view we might render, "Wilt thou be to me as the delusion of waters that are not real," or, "not answerable to their appearance?"

19. If thou wilt turn as I shall turn thee] The prophet, having shewn some impatience at the nature of his commission, is informed by God that the condition of being his servant must be following implicitly the directions given him; and that if he did so, and discharged his duty in a proper manner, his opponents should be obliged to conform to him, instead of his complying with their humours and inclinations, and he might rest assured of safe protection.—To "separate the precious from the vile" means to teach sound doctrine, distinguishing rightly between what is good and what is otherwise; which is the characteristic of a true minister of God.

CHAP. XVI.

THE prophecy which begins here is continued on to the end of the 18th verse of the next Chapter. Nor is there any reason to suspect its being out of its proper place, but that it may have been delivered, as well as those of the preceding Chapters, towards the beginning of Jehoiakim's evil reign.

The prophet is forbidden to marry or beget children because of the judgments that were about to fall upon all the inhabitants of the land, both old and young, v. 1—4. For the like reasons he is commanded not to join with any of his neighbours either in their mourning, or in their convivial mirth; v. 5—9. He shews that their calamities were the effect of their apostasy and disobedience, for which God would drive them into exile, and give them no quarter, till he had fully requited their wickedness; v. 10—18. But their future restoration is intermediately foretold, v. 14, 15. as is also the conversion of the Gentiles, v. 19—21.

3. Those that are born—] Forty one MSS. and twelve Editions for חילודים read more rightly, חילודים, the particip. *Pahul*.

4.—Of mortal diseases—] ממותי תחלמים—Literally, "Of deaths of sicknesses;" meaning no doubt epidemical disorders, such as the pestilence, terminating in death.

5.—the house of mourning] I see not the least reason for rendering מדרור, "a mourning feast," as it is expressed in the margin of our Bibles, and as several learned commentators have distinguished it. The word occurs only once besides in the Hebrew, namely, Amos vi. 7. nor is another to be met with from the same root. And in that passage of

Amos the notion of a *funeral banquet* is clearly out of the question ; and I am inclined to think the same as to any banquet at all. That funeral feasts were in use among the Greeks and Romans, cannot be doubted ; and that something of the same kind was practised by the Jews, may likewise be allowed ; but whatever relates to that point is here treated of at ver. 7. In Arabic the verbs *رَزَحَ* *male habuit*, and *رَزَا* *malum affecit, vel detrimentum passus*, might countenance in מרזח the sense of *mourning* or *affliction*, which the context in this place evidently suggests, but without any idea of feasting, with which these verbs seem not to have the least connexion. But under the root *רזח* in Castel's Lexicon we find a sense, which seems exactly to suit מרזח in both passages where it is used, though in different ways ; namely, *exaltatio vocis, sive ad fletum, sive ad lætitiā* ; so that in one place it might stand for *noisy mirth*, in the other for *the loud outcry of lamentation*. The latter is characterized in St Mark's gospel, Ch. v. 38. by the term θορυβος, where speaking of Jairus's daughter lately departed, our Saviour, it is said, found θορυβον, κλαιοντας και αλαλαζοντας πολλα. Correspondent to which is a passage cited by Mr Harmer, Ch. vi. Obs. 54. from one of Sir J. Chardin's MSS. concerning the present manners of the East, in which the "concourse to places where persons lie dead is said to be incredible. Every one runs thither, the poor and the rich ; and the first more especially make a strange noise." See also what follows in the same Observation still more to the purpose. The prophet then is forbidden to enter into the house from whence such lamentable outcries proceeded ; or of "one that lamenteth thus loudly ;" (for מרזח may be the participle present in *Pihel* ;) as he is said at ver. 8. to go into the house of feasting.

Ibid. Lovingkindness and tender mercies.] These words are not expressed in the version of the LXX. ; but Origen has inserted, as from some other version, και τον ελεον μου, και τους οικτιρισμους μου, which supposes the reading of the text to have been, וְאֶת-חַסְדִּי וְאֶת-רַחֲמֵי. But none of the ancient versions besides, nor any of the collated MSS. countenance this reading. And perhaps it might be meant, that as God had withdrawn "his peace" from the people, so he would not have any others shew "lovingkindness or compassion" for those, with whom he had declared himself at enmity.

6. No one shall cut himself for them—] חָלַל-חַם וְלֹא יִתְגַּדַּד is commonly joined with the words preceding ; but those words are complete by themselves, as may be seen above ver. 4. and in one MS. the ו in חָלַל is omitted, in which case חָלַל וְלֹא יִתְגַּדַּד will make a hemistich perfectly corresponding with the next.

The cutting of their own flesh as a mark of grief for their deceased friends and relations, though expressly forbidden to the Jews by the law, Lev. xix. 28. Deut. xiv. 1. appears from hence to have been still in use among them, as well as among their neighbours, on this and other occasions of great mourning and affliction. See Ch. xli. 5. and compare Ch. xlvii. 5. xlviii. 37. The like practice attendant on funeral obsequies has been found among people lately discovered in the South seas.

"The new Zelanders have deep furrows marked on their foreheads. These were cut in the frenzy of their grief with a sharp shell for the loss of their friends and relations. The Otaheitean women wound the crown of the head under the hair with a shark's tooth, to prove the sincerity of their grief. And the ancient Huns wounded their cheeks on all occasions, where they wanted to testify their grief for the loss of a great man or a relation." Forster's Observations, p. 588. It is curious to remark, and to investigate the cause of such corresponding usages in nations so widely distant from each other.

It has been observed, that the priests of Baal slashed themselves with knives, in order to excite the attention and commiseration of their idol; 2 Kings xviii. 28. and hence it has been supposed, that this cutting of the flesh was forbidden the Israelites in the law of Moses, as having been practised by their heathen neighbours under the form of an idolatrous rite. This may have been so in some measure; and the superstition of heathen nations might have led them to think, that the anger of their deities, which had occasioned their misfortune, might be propitiated by the voluntary sufferings they inflicted on themselves. If this practice therefore in succeeding times was unattended with any such superstitious intention among the Jews, this may have been the cause why the breach of the law in this respect was so coolly passed over in them, who meant no more by cutting their flesh, than others do by tearing their hair and beating their breasts, namely, to give vent to their grief; perhaps not without some indignation against themselves, as if they thought themselves accessory to the evil they deplored by some fault or inadvertency of their own. But that there was no infringement of the law in this proceeding, can never be granted, either as to the letter, or the spirit of it. As to the first, Mr Harmer indeed contends, Ch. x. Obs. 66. that the law would not be at all contravened, if the word "dead" in Deut. xiv. 1. be understood to signify *dead idols*. But this cannot possibly be the case, if we consider that מֵת there must be understood as מֵתָא Lev. xix. 28. where the same prohibition is given. And if there can be any doubt concerning the import of this latter word, we shall find it explained in a subsequent Chapter, Lev. xxi. 1. where the priests are forbidden to be defiled מֵתָא, "for the dead among his people"; that is, they were not to approach any dead body, or assist in doing the last offices for it; unless, as expressed in the following verses, that dead body was one of their kindred in the nearest degrees of consanguinity. And in the verse immediately after, the same prohibition of shaving off their hair and cutting their flesh is especially renewed in their particular case. This therefore plainly shews, that by the terms, "cutting the flesh for the dead," the law had respect to nothing else, than to this mode of expressing grief for, or in regard to, a deceased relation or friend. And that the spirit, as well as letter, of the law was violated by this practice, will likewise appear from the reason assigned, Deut. xiv. 2. "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God; and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself above all the nations that are upon the earth." A similar reason is given Lev. xxi. 6. for restraining the priests from the same behaviour.

"They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God; for the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer; therefore they shall be holy." In both instances we see, the prohibition of the law stands upon the same ground, though in different degrees. Both priests and people were consecrated and set apart for the worship of JEHOVAH in a peculiar manner; and therefore neither the one nor the other were to admit of any thing that might derogate from the external decency and comeliness of that service, which they were required to perform in the face of all mankind; which a voluntary disfiguring of the human form in their own persons must unavoidably do.

Ibid.—Nor shall any one make himself bald for them] Cutting off the hair was a still more general practice among mankind as a token of mourning. See Bp. Lowth's Note on Isa. xv. 2. Forster in his Observations, p. 560. speaks of "the hair cut off, and thrown on the bier" at Otaheite. And at the Friendly Islands, it is expressly said, that "cutting off the hair is one of their mourning ceremonies." Narrative of Cook's and Clark's Voyage; Vol. i. p. 112.—This also was forbidden by the Mosaic law at the same time, and on the same principles as the foregoing one. The hair is the natural ornament of the head; and the loss of it a considerable defect in the human figure. It was therefore not to be voluntarily assumed by those, whose profession obliged them to "worship JEHOVAH in the beauty of holiness." At what time the observance of the law in these particulars began to be relaxed, does not appear; but I do not recollect any traces of such customs among God's chosen people, earlier than those which are alluded to in the prophetic books, properly so called.

7. Neither shall men break bread among them] The translation in the text of our English Bibles, "Neither shall men tear themselves for them," seems not near so proper as that in the margin, "break bread for them." It would be an unmeaning repetition of what had been said in the foregoing verse, and by no means suitable to the latter clause of this. Besides, פָּרַם signifies not *to tear*, but *to divide and distribute*. So we read Isa. lviii. 7. פָּרַם לִרְעָב לֶחֶם "to deal (or distribute) thy bread to the hungry." The LXX. and Vulgate seem indeed to have found לֶחֶם "bread" in the text of their copies here; and in one MS. לֶחֶם is perhaps written for פָּרַם. But as לֶחֶם is in a stile of conformity with the context, instead of parting with it, I am more apt to conclude, either that פָּרַם has been lost out of the later MSS. by means of its great similarity to לֶחֶם, the next adjoining word; or that it was designedly omitted from the first by an Ellipsis very easy to be supplied.—As to the custom alluded to, Jerome informs us in his commentary on this place, that "it was usual to carry provisions to mourners, and to make an entertainment, which sort of feasts the Greeks call *παρασκευα*, and the Latins *parentalia*." The origin of which custom undoubtedly was, that the friends of the mourner, who came to comfort him (and that they often came in great numbers for that purpose, we may learn from John xi. 19.) easily concluding that a person so far swallowed up of grief, as even to forget his own

bread, could hardly attend to the entertainment of so many guests, each sent in his proportion of meat and drink, in hopes to prevail upon the mourner by their example and persuasions to partake of such refreshment, as might tend to recruit both his bodily strength and his spirits. To this custom Tobit refers, when among other good exhortations to his son, he directs him to "pour out his bread on the burial of the just." Tob. iv. 17. And such no doubt was the entertainment which Job's friends partook of, when they came "to eat bread with him," and for a farther consolation to his misfortunes, "every man gave him a piece of money and an earring of gold," Job xlii. 11. Sir John Chardin in one of his MSS. tells us, that "the oriental Christians still make banquets of the same kind, by a custom derived from the Jews; and that the provisions spoken of in this verse were such as were wont to be sent to the house of the deceased, where healths were also drunk to the survivors of the family, wishing that the dead may have been the victims for the sins of the family." These latter meant no doubt, or were taken from, *the cup of consolations*. "The same," says he, "with respect to eating, is practised among the Moors." In like manner he explains (as many other commentators have also done) "the bread of men" mentioned Ezek. xxiv. 17. as signifying "the bread of others; the bread sent to mourners; the bread that the neighbours, friends and relations sent." Harmer, Ch. vi. Obs. 55. How far the funeral entertainments among the Greeks and Romans corresponded with the beforementioned, I leave to be considered by those who are conversant in heathen antiquities. See in particular Homer's Iliad v. 29. Ω. 801.

10.—what is our iniquity, and what our sin] All the ancient versions read עֲוֹנוֹנוּ and חַטֹּאתֵינוּ, as in the text at present; but thirty four MSS. and three Editions read in the plural עֲוֹנוֹנֵינוּ; and thirty eight MSS. and one Edition חַטֹּאתֵינוּ.

13. And there shall ye serve strange gods—] This is a prediction of what would happen to them in the course of their captivity; but of their own seeking, not of God's appointment. Finding themselves cast out of the favour of their own God, and despairing of any relief from that quarter, they would be tempted to put themselves under the protection of the gods of the country where they dwelt. See Deut. iv. 28. xxviii. 36, 64. 1 Sam. xxvi. 19.

14. After this behold the days shall come] Mr Lowth supposes that לָכֵן sometimes signifies *Nevertheless*; and Noldius does the same. But both here, and Ch. xxiii. 7. xxx. 16. xxxii. 36. and also Isa. xxx. 18. Hos. ii. 14. it seems more properly to signify, *After this*. לָ is used frequently to denote *after* a time or transaction; as לַשְּׁבִעָה הַיָּמִים, "after seven days;" Gen. vii. 10. לְשָׁנַיִם יָמִים, "after two years" 2 Sam. xiii. 23, לְגָלוּת, "after the carrying into captivity;" Ezek. i. 2. לְחַמִּית, "after having murdered," Ch. xli. 4. and therefore why not לָכֵן "after this?" See also Exod. xix. 1. Numb. i. 1. 1 Kings iii. 18, &c. It is obvious that this notice of a future restoration was here inserted, on purpose to guard the people during their exile from fal-

ling into idolatry through despair, by letting them see they had still a prospect of recovering God's wonted favour and protection.

Ibid. When it shall no more be said, As JEHOVAH liveth, who brought up, &c.] That is, the people in those days shall no more swear by JEHOVAH, as their deliverer from Egyptian bondage; but as him, who had restored them from a much more calamitous situation, after they had been carried into captivity to Babylon, and dispersed through different countries. The latter deliverance would be so much more wonderful and important, as to swallow up all remembrance of the former.

16. Behold I will send for many fishers] The Masoretes for לִרְגִּים read לִרְיָגִים, and so do seven MSS. and four Editions. By "fishers" and "hunters" are probably meant the same enemies, who should take different methods one after another to destroy them; besieging them in their cities, and taking them like fish inclosed in a net; and afterwards pursuing the scattered parties from place to place, till they got them into their hands; so that one way or other none would be suffered to escape. Compare Isai. xxiv. 17, 18. where it is in like manner foretold, that those who escaped from one danger should fall by another.

18. And I will requite in a double proportion—] So I think מִשְׁנֵה רִאשׁוֹנָה should be rendered. Literally the words signify, "the first time repeated." And God assigns the reason why their punishment should be doubled; because the offence committed in their own persons was aggravated by the influence of their bad example, tending to diffuse the same impiety and wickedness throughout the land. Thus they became answerable for the sins of others together with their own, and were therefore to receive double punishment.

19. O JEHOVAH, &c.] The prophet, shocked at the apostasy of Israel, and concerned for God's honour, looks forward to the time, when, as he predicts, even the Gentiles themselves shall become sensible of the absurdity of their hereditary idolatry, and be converted to the acknowledgment of the true God.

Ibid.—have falsely possessed vanity] נִרְכָּז signifies to be possessed of a property in any thing. And as JEHOVAH is said to be the "portion" or "inheritance" of his people, who claimed him as their peculiar God; in like manner the heathen nations may be said to have had their portion and inheritance in those idols, to whose protection they recommended themselves. But these idols were נִבֵּל, "vanity," things of nought, mere creatures of the imagination, without real existence. Their possession therefore or inheritance in such things was a fiction only or false possession; a title without a foundation. The next line expresses exactly the same sense in different words; and the following context argues conformably.

20. Shall man make gods for himself, &c.] This seems to be a reply from God, accounting for what was said before, that the heathens had no benefit from the objects in which they placed their religious confidence, by asking whether it was likely that men could create

gods, giving them power and perfections which they had not in themselves.

21. Therefore behold I, instructing them at this time] The time alluded to is undoubtedly that, when the Gospel was to be preached to and embraced by the Gentiles; when God promises that he would make such a display of his mighty power, as should amply convince them of the truth of his existence and divinity. "They shall know that my name is JEHOVAH:" a name which implies absolute and necessary existence, the real source and origin of all perfection; and they shall know it by the blessings which shall from my providence be derived to them.

CHAP. XVII.

IN this Chapter the prophet describeth in the four first verses the attachment of the people of Judah to idolatry, and foretelleth the fatal consequences. He contrasteth the accursed condition of him that resteth his trust on man, with the blessedness of one that trusteth in God; and illustrates both by apt and lively comparisons; v. 5.—8. He sheweth, that be the human heart ever so wily, God can detect, and will finally punish its double-dealing; v. 9.—11. He acknowledgeth that sure salvation cometh from God, and from him only; v. 12.—14. And complaining of those that scoffed at his predictions, he prayeth for the divine countenance and support against them; v. 15.—18.

The remaining part of the Chapter is taken up with a distinct prophecy, relative to the strict observance of the sabbath day; which the prophet was sent, most probably immediately after the delivery of the foregoing, to proclaim aloud in all the gates of Jerusalem, as a matter which concerned the conduct of each individual, and the general happiness of the whole.

1. The sin of Judah is written, &c.] Some commentators have understood these words in a literal sense, as if these idolaters had actually carried about them tablets hanging before the place of their hearts, on which, and on the horns of their altars, the name of their idol was inscribed. But I think that "the pen of iron," and "the diamond's point," might be sufficient to shew that the whole was spoken metaphorically, and meant to denote, that idolatry was indelibly fixed in their affections and memory, as much so, as if it had been engraved, with instruments capable of making the strongest and most durable impression, upon their heart, as upon a writing tablet, and upon their altars, so as to be for ever present before their eyes. And for a further proof of this, appeal is made ver. 2. to the behaviour of their children, equally attentive to and tenacious of the corrupt institutions which they had learned from the example of their parents. This was indeed inverting the rule which Moses had prescribed to them in order to secure the observance of God's law; and which is also couched in the like metaphorical terms, Deut. xi. 18—20. "Therefore shall ye lay up these my

words in your heart, and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up; and thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates." In the same stile Solomon enforces his exhortations, Prov. iii. 3. "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart." And again, Prov. vii. 3. speaking of his commandments, says, "Bind them about thy fingers; write them upon the table of thine heart."

Ibid.—of their altars—] Sixty one, perhaps sixty five MSS. and the oldest Edition of the Bible, for מִזְבְּחֹתֶיכֶם read מִזְבְּחֹתֵיהֶם; and forty nine, perhaps fifty three, MSS. read מִזְבְּחֹתֵיהֶם contractedly. The Syr. Chald. Vulg. Arabic, and the Greek versions preserved in the Hexaplar, likewise render "their," not "your, altars."

2.—and upon the highest hill] Sixty two, perhaps sixty five MSS. and two Editions read וְעַל instead of עַל before גְּבוּעוֹת. The Syr. Chald. and Arab. also prefix the conjunction.

3. O my mountain, &c.] The ancient versions all connect the words בְּשׂוֹר, or whatever they read instead of them, with the preceding context. But it is manifest, that the text, as it stands at present, cannot be reconciled with any of their interpretations. Most of the modern commentators render as we find in our English Bible, "O my mountain in the field;" although they differ in explaining what is meant thereby. Some understand mount Sion or Jerusalem; others the temple. Michaelis paraphrases it thus, "O Jerusalem, which hast long been situate on my chosen mountain, and surrounded by a most fertile country, the land of Canaan." But at the same time he cites Cocceius, who says, that the Jewish people are hereby enigmatically compared with the rest of the world, as a mountain situate in the midst of a level plain, and distinguished with a glory, which did not belong to the world in general. These explanations are ingenious; but the general error seems to me to lie in not observing that בְּשׂוֹר should be construed with זֶרַע, so as to denote substance in the field, as cattle, growing corn, &c. in contradistinction to מִצְרֹתַי, "thy stores," laid up in granaries, &c. at home. זֶרַע then stands single, and may be understood of the Jewish nation; the punishment of which is denounced. Nations and princes of great power and eminence are figuratively called mountains in regard to their strength and elevation. See Ch. li. 25. Isai. xli. 15. Zech. iv. 7. Judah is therefore stiled God's mountain, as having been chosen by him, and thereby raised to a degree of elevation above all other people. See Ch. xxxi. 23.

3.—and all thy treasures] All the ancient versions for כָּל read וְכָל, as it is found in no less than 193, perhaps 195, MSS. and three Editions.

Ibid. thy strong holds—] DR DURELL has the following Note on Deut. xxxiii. 29. "Though בְּמוֹת generally denotes such high places

as were appropriated to the religious rites of idolaters ; it is likewise used for *intrenchments*, or *fortifications*, on eminences, which seems to be the sense of it here. See 2 Sam. i. 19, 25. xxii. 34. where the Chaldee paraphrase constantly renders בִּמְצוֹת by בֵּית תּוֹקֶה, “a fortified edifice.” Parallel prophecies of Jacob and Moses, p. 150.

It is obvious how well this sense of בִּמְצוֹת suits here. And to the above instances we may add Deut. xxxii. 13. with its parallel, Isa. lviii. 14. and also Ezek. xxxvi. 2.

4. And I will dismiss thy glory—] וְשִׁמְשְׁתָּהּ וְבָרַךְ—That there is a corruption in the text here, is, I think, scarcely to be doubted. The Gr. versions preserved in the Hexapla render, αὐτὴ ἀφαισθῆναι (αὐτὴ ἀφαισθῆναι, Græc. αὐτὴ ἀφαισθῆναι μόνη) αὐτὴ ταπεινωθῆναι (αὐτὴ ταπεινωθῆναι μόνη). From hence I conjecture, that possibly instead of וְבָרַךְ they read וְדָרַךְ, because דָּר is rendered by the LXX. ταπεινός and ταπεινωμένος. Admit this, and by separating ה from the end of וְשִׁמְשְׁתָּהּ, where it is at least of no use, and prefixing it to וְדָרַךְ, we shall read וְשִׁמְשְׁתָּהּ וְדָרַךְ. But שִׁמַּח properly signifies to *dismiss*, *release*, or *set free*. See the learned Mr Peters’s explanation of it in his dissertation upon Job, p. 349. We may therefore render, “And thou shalt dismiss (or, part with) thy glory from thy inheritance, &c. that is, thou shalt no longer exercise thy sovereignty, or live in thy wonted splendour in the land. But the Syr. and Arab. seem to have read וְשִׁמְשְׁתָּהּ, which is still better, and conforms with וְדָרַךְ, which follows. “And I will dismiss (or cause to depart) thy glory, &c.”

Ibid.—a fire is kindled] Instead of קָרַח קָרַח two MSS. read קָרַח. as Ch. xv. 14. And all the Greek versions in the Hexaplar, together with the Chald. and Arab. seem to have done the same. The Syr. indeed follows the present reading of the text. And one MS. with the Vulg. reads קָרַח, *succendisti*.

6.—is continually exposed to scorching heats] Literally, “inhabiteh scorching heats.” See the like phrase, Isa. xxxiii. 14.

8. And is not sensible—] The Masoretes here read וְיִדְעָהּ, as at ver. 6. and this reading is justified by forty eight, perhaps fifty, MSS. and five Editions; and by the Chald. Paraphrast, who renders, וְיִדְעָהּ. Compare Psalm i. 3.

9. It is even past all hope ; who can know it ?] That is, humanly speaking, there is no chance that any one should trace it through all its windings, and discover what is at the bottom of it.

10. And try the reins] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. prefix the conjunction, and twenty, perhaps twenty one, MSS. read וְזֶה ; and seven others, וְזֶה.

Ibid. To give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit—] Twenty four MSS. and the oldest edition of the Heb. Bible, together with the LXX. read לְכָל לְכָל without the conjunction—Sixty two, perhaps sixty five, MSS. and two editions concur with the Masora, and with the LXX. and Syr. versions, in reading כְּדִרְכּוֹ instead of כְּדִרְכּוֹ—Also twenty seven, perhaps thirty one, MSS. and two

of the most ancient editions, with the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. read וּכְפָרִי, with the Conjunction prefixed.

11. As the Kore, that hatcheth what it did not lay] Bochart (De sacr. Anim. P. I. lib. i. c. 12.) with a great deal of learning contends, that קָרִי is not a partridge, nor any bird known in these parts. If so, it were wrong to lead persons into error by giving it a name that belongs to a different species. That it is a bird which frequents the mountains, and of no great value, may be learnt from 1 Sam. xxvi. 20. Here it is said to sit upon and hatch the eggs of birds of another species. This want of distinction is indeed common to many sorts of birds; but the partridge is no way remarkable for it. But where it is done, the young ones, when fledged, are sure to forsake their supposititious dam, and to join with those of their own feather; in which circumstance the point of comparison seems to lie.

Ibid.---and not according to right---] That is, not in a due regular manner, by the blessing of God upon honest endeavours, but by arts of knavery and injustice.

Ibid. In the midst of his days---] For יָמָיו the Masora reads יָמָיו, with the concurrence of fifty seven MSS. among which are some of the oldest, and two editions; and of all the ancient versions.

Ibid.---he shall be a felon in his latter end.] That is, he shall have the reward of a felon at last, or shall be brought to condign punishment. This is directly opposite to what Balaam wished, Numb. xxiii. 10. and what every wise man would wish for himself, "a latter end like that of the righteous." לִבְלִי seems to signify a man of blasted character or morals; or perhaps one who by his misdemeanour has forfeited the privileges of a citizen, and rendered himself obnoxious to public justice; in short, "a rogue;" or "felon." Our translators have generally rendered לִבְלִי "a fool;" and no doubt such depravity implies folly in the extreme. But by *fool* we generally understand, not one that goes wilfully wrong, but one who has a natural defect of understanding; and whom we do not so much condemn as pity for the misconduct, which for want of right discernment he is led into. It would therefore be certainly better, if the word לִבְלִי were otherwise translated in many passages of the Bible, where, as well as in this, the primary idea of *fool* is apt to mislead the inattentive, or unlearned reader at least, into wrong notions as to the general scope of the sentence. I cannot help mentioning one, which few English readers I believe have properly understood for the reason beforementioned, and which also at the same time may serve to illustrate what is meant by a man being לִבְלִי in his latter end. In 2 Sam. iii. 33, 34. king David is represented as lamenting over the death of Abner, and doing justice at once to the character of that great general, and to his own innocence of any share or concern in his murder. The words properly understood are as follow. "Died Abner as a felon, or malefactor, dieth?" No; for if he had, the circumstances of his death would have been different; he would have been led, as such persons used to be, bound hand and foot to the place of execution. But, continues the king, "Thy hands were not

bound, nor thy feet put into fetters. As a man falleth before the face of the sons of treachery, so fellest thou." That is, thou sufferedst not by a legal sentence; but as many good and virtuous men have done besides, thou fellest by the hands of envious and ruffianly assassins.

12. A glorious throne—] As in the preceding verses was set forth the vain dependence of him who seeks to advance himself by indirect methods; so here we are taught the solid foundation, which he builds upon, who has recourse to the divine blessing, and seeks to recommend himself to the favour of that Being, to whom Israel was taught to look up for support, and whose kingdom from all eternity ruleth over all.

13. And shall be recorded in the earth for revolters] For יַמְרוּ the Masoretes very properly substitute יַמְרוּ, a reading which is confirmed by thirty eight, perhaps forty, MSS. among which are those of the best note, and by two printed editions. The meaning undoubtedly is, that those who deserted JEHOVAH should have their names recorded and transmitted to posterity with infamy, as revolters and rebels against their rightful Sovereign.

15. Where is the word of JEHOVAH? let it come now.] The interval of delay between the delivery of the word of prophecy and its accomplishment hath afforded frequently to unbelievers a handle for scoffing at and questioning the truth of it. They want, forsooth, more immediate proofs for their conviction. See Isa. v. 19. Ezek. xii. 22, 27. Amos v. 18. 2 Pet. iii. 4.

16. I have not been in haste to outrun thy guidance] Literally, "I have not hastened from feeding after thee." The metaphor is taken from sheep feeding where their shepherd led them. The prophet exculpates himself from having officiously put himself forward, like a sheep that hastily gets before the shepherd, or shewing any desire of bringing on the evil day, of which he was appointed to give notice. He appeals to God as a witness, that in all that he had spoken, he had only acted the part of a faithful messenger, of one who knew that his conduct was subject to the immediate inspection and notice of an omnipresent Judge. "It hath been before thee;" I have spoken it as in thy presence.

19,—the children of the people] For בְּנֵי עַם the LXX. render as if they had read עַם, *thy people*, λαὸς σου. But the Masoretes read בְּנֵי; and this reading is also countenanced by seventeen MSS. and four editions, besides four MSS. more, which have a letter erased at the beginning of עַם. By "the gate of the children of the people," I suppose is meant the gate most frequented by the people, being that nearest the palace, where the kings of Judah held their most solemn courts of judicature.

23,—so as not to hear] For שְׁמַע the Masoretes read by transposition שְׁמַע, with the concurrence of five MSS. The same is also found in the margin of the edition of Felix Pratensis, and among the various readings collected by Houbigant. Twenty eight MSS. and three ancient editions read שְׁמַע without the ו.

24.—thereon] Ten, perhaps twelve MSS. and three Editions with the Masora read בָּרָא for בָּרָא.

25. they, and their chieftains, men of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem—] I suppose it is hereby meant, that both the kings themselves, and the subordinate governors or captains, should be natives of the country, and not foreigners.

26.—and from the plain, and from the hill country, and from the south—] These divisions of the country belonging to the tribe of Judah may be found, Josh. xv. 21, 33, 48. and these together with the tribe of Benjamin made up the whole kingdom of Judah, when taken separate from the kingdom of Israel, or of the ten tribes. See the same enumeration, Ch. xxxii. 44.

27. And go through the gates] For גָּבַל the Chald. and Vulg. seem to have read גָּבַל or גָּבַל; which seems to be countenanced by ver. 21, 24. But to “carry a burden and go” implies to go loaded with it; and therefore no alteration seems necessary. The ancient Bodleian MS. and one more wholly omit גָּבַל.

CHAP. XVIII.

THE prophecies and transactions contained in this and the two following Chapters successively hang together; and if they are introduced in their proper place (which there is no reason to controvert) these also, as well as the foregoing, must be referred to some part of the three first years of Jehoiakim's reign.

The prophet is shewn first, under the type of the Potter, God's absolute authority over nations and kingdoms to regulate and alter their condition at his own discretion; v. 1—10. He is then directed to exhort the people to avert the evil designed them by repentance and amendment; and, upon their refusal, to charge them with the guilt of unprecedented revolt, and to foretel their destruction; v. 11—17. They conspire against him: he protesteth against their unmerited and ungrateful persecution of him, and calleth for justice against them.

3.—and behold he was at work—] וַיִּהְיֶה עֹשֶׂה מְלָאכָה—The Masora here reads וַיִּהְיֶה עֹשֶׂה מְלָאכָה instead of וַיִּהְיֶה עֹשֶׂה; and has the concurrence of five MSS; it is also so found in the Babylonish Talmud, another Rabbinical commentary, and in the margin of the edition of Felix Pratensis. But the present text perfectly agrees with the Hebrew idiom, and needs no alteration.

Ibid.—upon the stones—] This is the literal signification of עַל-הָאֲבָנִים, which the LXX. also render ἐπὶ τῶν λίθων. There can be no doubt that the machine is intended, on which the Potters formed their earthen vessels; and the appellation αἱ λίθαι, “the stones,” will appear very proper, if we consider this machine as consisting of a pair of circular stones placed upon one another like milstones; of which the lower was immoveable, but the upper one turned upon the foot of a spindle or axis, and had motion communicated to it by the feet of the potter sitting at his work; as may be learned from Eccles. xxxviii. 29. Upon the top of this upper stone, which was flat, the clay was placed, which the potter, having given the stone the due velocity, formed into

shape with his hands. The principal difference between this and the wheel in present use seems to be, that instead of the upper stone, a nut or beam is used of about two feet in length, and one in diameter, the foot of which plays perpendicularly upon the nether stone. This beam serves for an axis to a circular wooden frame, like a wheel, joined to it at the lower end; and on the top of this beam, which is flat, the clay is placed, and the motion given; and the operation performed in the manner above described. It is probable the upper stone was for convenience shaped not unlike this wheel and beam; and might not improperly have given the name of "the wheel" to the whole machine; but not of "the wheels," as in our English version; there being but one of the stones that had the resemblance of a wheel.---Perhaps the *Sella parturientium* may have been a contrivance of a similar kind; for which reason we find it called by the same name, **חאבני**; *Exod.* i. 16.

4.---of clay---] Instead of **כחמר** nineteen, perhaps twenty three, MSS. and four editions, read **בוחמר**. Two MSS. read **בחומר**.

14. Will the snow leave Lebanon, &c.] The two similitudes in this verse are evidently designed to illustrate the unnatural and absurd conduct of the Jewish nation in deserting their own God, and adopting the superstitions of a strange idolatry, in preference to the good old paths which God had ordained for them to walk in. As to the first, Lebanon, it must be observed, was the highest mountain in Israel, lying to the north of it, and having its summit almost always covered with snow; from the whiteness of which it is supposed to have derived its name. See the accounts of modern travellers referred to, *Ancient Univ. Hist.* Vol. I. Book i. p. 570. fol. The same circumstance is also recorded by Tacitus, *Hist. Lib. v. Cap. 6.* "*Præcipuum montium Libanum erigit, mirum dictu, tantos inter ardores opacum fidumque nivibus.*" It would therefore be very unnatural and monstrous, if the snow should quit the tops of Lebanon, whilst the rocks of less height in the adjacent country were covered with it.

Ibid. Will men dig for strange waters, &c.] "Strange waters" are those brought from distant parts by pipes or conduits, or by canals digged for the purpose. Thus Sennacherib is represented as boasting of his power, *2 Kings xix. 24.* "I have digged and drunk strange waters, and with the sole of my feet have I dried up the rivers of besieged places," or rather, "of embankment;" the meaning of which I conceive to be, "I have caused waters to be brought from afar in canals, which I have digged for the supply of mine army, which was so numerous as to dry up in their passage even such large rivers, as required a dyke or embankment to guard against their inundations." Instead of **קרי מנולים** I propose to read **קרי מנולים**. **קרי** and **בקרי** are used, *Lev. xxvi. 21, 23, 24, &c.* adverbially to signify *contrary*, or *in direct contradiction*. By **מנולים** are meant *the natural streams or rivers*. So that the sense here will be, "Will men act so preposterously, as to bring waters from a distance by artificial modes of conveyance, rather than make use of the natural streams, which flow through their

own country.” Compare both these instances with those that follow in the next verse, and it will be seen how exactly they correspond, taken in the same order respectively.

15. And paths of ancient use have caused them to stumble] This translation must be right, if the text be right; for there is no other subject for **וּכְשִׁלּוֹם**, or, as it is written at large in twenty one MSS. and four editions, **וּכְשִׁילוֹם**, but **שְׁבִילֵי**. And if we were to read **וּכְשִׁלּוֹ**, according to MS. Bodl. No. 1. it should seem necessary to read also **בְּשִׁבְלֵי**, which however is not to be found in any collated MS. or edition, although somewhat countenanced by the Syr. and Vulgate. In this latter case we should render, “And they have stumbled in their ways at paths of ancient use, or standing.” But the same, or nearly the same, sense will be found to result from the text as it stands at present. For whatever it be that creates such a disgust and prejudice, as to divert any one from pursuing a course he was engaged in, is said to *cause him to stumble*, or to prove a *stumbling block in his way*. By **וּכְשִׁלּוֹם** are meant those good old paths (Ch. vi. 16.) or lines of duty, which were marked out to the people by the divine law. But these, it seems, disgusted them, or “caused them to stumble as they went along;” they therefore quitted those paths, and chose rather to walk in others less commodious and salutary, “paths of a road not thrown up,” the paths of an idolatrous ritual, not prescribed or made for their use.

17. Like an east wind] All the ancient versions agree in **כְּרוּחַ**, the present reading of the text. But the ancient Bodleian MS. No. 1. and twelve more, perhaps fourteen, read **בְּרוּחַ**, “with an east wind.” The east wind, being dry and blasting, is commonly used to express the severity of God’s judgments. See Isa. xxvii. 8. Hos. xiii. 15.

18. Come and let us devise measures, &c.] The people, to whom Jeremiah had delivered his message from God, seem to have been incensed against him on much the same ground, as the Jews in aftertimes were against our Saviour and his apostles. They had persuaded themselves, that God had intended for them a perpetual establishment; and would accordingly provide them with a constant succession of men in all departments to preserve and maintain the general welfare; namely, priests to direct in all matters of law and religion; wise statesmen to manage their civil concerns; and prophets to make known to them the immediate will of God on all important and extraordinary occasions. Upon this presumption they inferred that Jeremiah, who foretold the contrary, was a false prophet, and as such they determined to punish him.

Ibid.—let us smite him on the tongue] Our English translators have rendered, “let us smite him with the tongue;” which commentators understand to mean, “let us bring an accusation against him.” The Chaldee Paraphrast explains it, “let us bear false witness against him.” In the margin of our Bibles we find “for the tongue;” which may signify, “let us punish him for his malignant speeches.” But I rather think we should render, “let us smite him on the tongue,” that is, on

the offending part; alluding to a very significant mode of inflicting punishment, by directing it to that particular member of the body, which had the most immediate share in the offence, although here it may possibly carry this general import only, "let us punish him so as effectually to silence him."

20. Shall evil be rendered for good? Literally, "Shall one render evil"—for רעור being feminine cannot be the subject of וישלם, which is used indefinitely.

21. And drain them—] The LXX. here render, ἀφαιροῦν αὐτοὺς ὡς ὕδωρ μαχαίρας, and the other ancient versions seem rather to favour the derivation of דגרו from גור. But our English translators have derived it from נגר, *to flow or run away* like water; and I think more properly; although they have supplied unnecessarily, as it should seem, both here and Ezek. xxxv. 5. the word *blood*. For דגרו, or, as it is found in seven MSS. and two Editions, דגור. and in one MS. דגור without the conjunction, signifies "drain them," or "cause them to melt and flow away" like water. See Ps. lviii. 8.

The same phrase occurs Ps. lxiii. 11. יגירו על ירי דרב; which I cite in order to suggest an emendation which seems necessary. In our English translation now in use it is rendered, "they shall fall by the sword;" and correspondently in the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. παραδιδονται ὡς ὕδωρ ἐκ χειρὸς ῥομφαίας, *Tradentur in manus gladii*. But how יגירו can have this passive sense, does not appear. On the other hand, in the margin of our present Bibles it is rendered, "They shall make him run out *like water* by the hands of the sword;" in the ancient version, "They shall cast him down with the edge of the sword;" and in the Chald. Paraphrase, "They shall fear him because of the stroke of the sword." In all which the difficulty will be to find the antecedent of the affix ירו, HIM. But it seems evident to me, that the word יגירו has suffered a corruption by the transposition of the two last letters, and that we should read יגור; and then the sense of the verse will not only be clear in itself, but perfectly correspond with the preceding one, thus:

10 But these with a view to destruction seek my life;

Let them go into the lower parts of the earth:

11 They drain it off by means of the sword;

Let them be a portion for foxes.

Ibid. Let their women—] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. here omit the copulative ו before תחינה, and I should from analogy guess them to be right.—On the other hand at the beginning of the last hemistich of this verse the LXX. together with one MS. add the conjunction before בחוריהם; but this I think less probable.

Ibid.—killed by pestilence] דרגי מות—Among the judgments enumerated Ch. xv. 2. מות, it was there observed, signified "the pestilence," or some epidemical disease that was mortal. The same must be the case here.

23. But let them be overthrown—] For ודיו twenty seven, perhaps twenty eight, MSS. and five editions, read with the Masora, וידיו.—Two MSS. for בעת read בעת. The sense in both cases is nearly the

same; but the ancient versions confirm the present reading of the text.

CHAP. XIX.

UNDER the type of breaking a potter's vessel, Jeremiah in the presence of the elders, of the priests and people foresheweth the ruin and desolation of Judah and Jerusalem for their sins; v. 1---13. and repeateth the like denunciations in the court of the temple; v. 14, 15. for which being beaten and imprisoned by Pashur, captain of the temple, on his release he pronounceth a terrible sentence against Pashur and his friends, foretelling their being carried away captives with all Judah unto Babylon, where Pashur and all that belonged to him should die in exile; Ch. xx. 1---6. Jeremiah complaineth of the mockery of his enemies, and their malicious attempts to hurt him; but professeth his trust that God would still defeat their purposes, and avenge his wrongs; and celebrateth his deliverance with a song of praise, v. 7---13. He bitterly lamenteth his being born to a life of so much sorrow and uneasiness; v. 14. to the end.

1.—unto me] Six MSS. and two Editions read 'אל, "unto me," agreeably to the LXX. and Syr. Versions. Another MS. has 'אל in the margin.

Ibid.—and some of the elders, &c.] The LXX. Syr. and Chald. here supply a verb answering to the verb "take," which is found in our English version. But I apprehend there is an ellipsis of the words 'חלקו אתך, which are virtually contained in the preceding verb חלוק; "Go thou, and let some of the elders, &c. go with thee." See ver. 10.

2.—which lies before the gate Harsith] The Masoretes with fifteen MSS. and three Editions read חורסית for חורסות, and this reading of the last syllable is also confirmed by the LXX. Aquila, Symmachus, Theodotion, and the Syr. who all have rendered the word as a proper name; the first Χαρησις, the other three Greek translators Αρησις, and the Syr. by an evident mistake of ח for ר, חורסית. Our English translators with some other interpreters have supposed this to be "the East gate," called שער חמורת, Neh. iii. 29. and that חורסית is of the same import from חורש *the sun*, the gate being opposite to the sun at its rising. But though חורש signifies *the sun*, I see no reason for determining it to be *the rising sun*, and consequently for interpreting the adjective *eastern*. But what more directly contradicts this is, that the valley of the son of Hinnom was not on the east, but on the south side of Jerusalem; as I think may be concluded from Josh. xv. 8. but is expressly affirmed by an ingenious traveller, who viewed the place on the spot, and whose words are—"On the east is mount Olivet, separated by the valley of Jehosaphat (which also circleth a part of the north) on the south the mountain of offence, interposed with the valley of Gehinnon." Sandys's Travels, Book iii. p. 155. It seems far more probable, that חורסית is derived from חרש, *a potsherd*, which being written with a Sin, is in sound the same as חורש, and the letters are often inter-

changeably used for each other. In Chaldee it is written דורס; and the Vulgate here renders *ficilis*. This favours the supposition of Grotius, that the gate was so called, because the potters threw out of it their broken pieces; only he seems to be mistaken in placing it near the temple. The Chaldee Paraphrast interprets it "the dung gate;" and it is most likely to have been the same with that which is so called, Neh. iii. 13, 14. because, besides the rubbish of broken pots, all the filth of the city was carried through it, and laid in the valley of Hinnom, after Josiah had defiled it; for which reason also the valley itself seems to have been named, "The valley of dead bodies and of ashes," Ch. xxxi. 40, or, as it is expressed more fully in the Syriac, "The valley into which they cast dung and ashes." In further confirmation of this it may be observed, that the dung gate is found exactly in the quarter, in which I have before proved the gate to be situated, which was in front of the valley of the son of Hinnom. For when Nehemiah dedicated the walls of Jerusalem, he appointed the people in two companies to go round in procession; one company to the right, or south, the other to the left, or north, so as both to come in by the east to the temple. The procession therefore beginning from the west, the first gate that presented itself to the party that came round by the south, was the dung gate; which consequently was on the south side, nearest the west; as the valley of the son of Hinnom also appears to have been. See Neh. xii. 31.—However till the affair has been decided by better judgments, I have thought best to follow the prudent caution of those, who have interpreted דורסית as a proper name.

4.—they have deserted me] For עובני twenty seven, perhaps twenty eight, MSS. and two editions, read עובני.

Ibid.—of innocents] The Masora reads נקיי, and has the concurrence of forty two, perhaps forty three, MSS. and six editions.

5.—which I enjoined not, &c.] See note on Ch. vii. 31.

7. And I will defeat the counsel of Judah, &c.] It is probable that some signal check was given the Jews in this quarter by the Chaldeans during the siege of Jerusalem.

8.—of hissing—] Hissing seems to mean here an inarticulate sound, expressing not so much contempt, as astonishment mixed with horror. See Ch. xviii. 16. &c. &c.

9. And I will cause them to eat the flesh, &c.] See the like threatened Lev. xxvi. 29. Deut. xxviii. 53. Ezek. v. 10. and spoken of as accomplished, Lam. iv. 10.

11.—as he breaketh] That is, as Jeremiah breaketh; the words being spoken by JEHOVAH.

Ibid.—which cannot be make whole again] For להרפא thirty one MSS. and three Editions read להרפא; and the final ה is upon a rasure in five other MSS.

Ibid.—and men shall bury in Topheth] These words are omitted by the LXX; but are found in the parallel passage, Ch. vii. 32.

12.---like Topheth] That is, either “a place of slaughter,” as ver. 6. or “defiled,” as it follows in the next verse.

15.---I am about to bring'---] The Masora with twenty five, perhaps twenty seven, MSS. and three Editions, for מביא read מביא.

Ibid.—and upon all the cities belonging to it] כל-עריה—All the cities of Judah and Benjamin are meant, which acknowledged Jerusalem for their metropolis, and were subordinate to her.

CHAP. XX.

1.---commanding officer] Three MSS. read with the Syr. ונביר פקיד. But the text seems to need no alteration. The case was probably this. The priests, as we learn from 1 Chron. xiv. were distributed by David into twenty four courses under as many heads of families, each of which courses officiated by turns in the temple service. The heads of each course or family are said ver. 5. to be “governors of the sanctuary,” and (according to our present translation) “governors of the house of God;” but *of the house* is not expressed in the Hebrew; therefore ערי-האלהים may more properly be rendered, “principal” or “chief of the judges or magistrates;” according to a well known signification of אלהים. The meaning then will be, that these heads of the courses had not only the chief ordering of the holy things, or of the service of the sanctuary, but were invested also with authority and power at least within the precincts of the temple, to maintain peace and good order there. These persons I look upon to be the same with those, who in the New Testament are stiled ἀρχιερες, “chief priests,” being next in dignity and power to the high priest. The course of Immer was the sixteenth in order, and Pashur, it seems, was the head of it; so that if the course of Immer was at that time upon duty, Pashur was at the same time the acting ruler or commander in the temple. And this I conceive to be implied in the words נביר פקיד; נביר implying his authority or command, and פקיד, that he was then in the exercise of it; and by virtue of that authority he took upon him to punish Jeremiah as a disturber of the peace. I have given this officer or magistrate the military title of “commanding officer,” because it was usual to consider the temple as a kind of garrison held by priests and Levites under military subordination. And for this reason, no doubt, we find him called by the name of στρατηγός τοῦ ναοῦ, “captain of the temple,” Acts iv. 1. v. 24, 26. In Luke xxii. 52. “captains,” στρατηγοί, are spoken of in the plural number; which may perhaps be thus accounted for. As on the great festivals not only the priests of the ordinary course, but the whole body of priests, were called upon to assist in the sacrifices; so on account of the multitudes that flocked to the temple at these times, the guards were also necessarily doubled, and of course a greater number of στρατηγοί, “captains,” were on constant duty; and many, if not all these, came to assist in apprehending Jesus, as on a service, which might be esteemed hazardous on account of the number of his disciples.

2.—the house of correction] Our translators have rendered **מִחְזַקְכָּה** “the stocks;” but I think without sufficient ground; for the word, which properly signifies that instrument of punishment, is **סֵר**; See Job xiii. 27. xxxiii. 11. The word **מִחְזַקְכָּה** occurs twice besides; Ch. xxix. 26. and 2 Chron. xvi. 10. in both which places it is rendered simply “a prison;” and is mentioned as a punishment due to or inflicted on one, who assumed the character of a prophet without a proper call, or was presumed to have behaved unbecomingly as such. The verb **חָזַק**, from which it is derived, signifies in *Hiphil* to *cause to turn, alter or change*; that is, in respect of moral conduct, to *correct or reform*; and therefore **מִחְזַקְכָּה** seems not improperly expressed by “the house of correction;” such places being also often established in the gates of cities, where courts of judicature were anciently held. And it is very natural to understand here, that Pashur, having caused Jeremiah to be beaten or scourged, ordered him into confinement afterwards; from whence he released him the next day.

Ibid.—the higher gate of Benjamin] The city of Jerusalem, taken in its full extent, was included within the lot of two tribes; but the north part, the ancient Jebusi, of which mount Moriah, where the temple stood, made a part, was in the lot of Benjamin, as may be seen, Josh. xviii. 16. Admitting this, the upper or higher gate of Benjamin must be one of those that were on the north side; and accordingly Ezekiel, Ch. ix. 2. describes “the higher gate” as “lying toward the north.” By the epithet “higher,” I suppose regard may be had to the course of the sun, rising in the east, and going down to the west; so that the higher of the gates, that were in the north quarter in the lot of Benjamin, must be the most eastern of them, and consequently one adjoining to the temple. See Ch. xxxvi. 10, 12. This also appears from the beforecited passage, Ezek. ix. 2. where Ezekiel, who stood within the inner court of the temple is said to have seen six men advancing directly “from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, to the side of the brasen altar.” The gate however, though it must be thus situated, might otherwise be called “higher,” from its standing on more elevated ground than the rest in the circuit of the wall.

3.—Magor-missabib] This word signifies “Terror all around.” And God’s calling him by that name implies that he would render him such as he called him. So when God called Abram by the new name of Abraham, he assigns the reason, “For a father of many nations have I made thee.” Gen. xvii. 5.

5.—all the strength of this city, and all its industry, and all that is valuable in it] **קִרְיָתָא** properly signifies that which strengthens and secures the possession of any thing. Here, no doubt, it means “the men of war,” which constitute “the strength” of a city or state; as **יָגִירָא** “its labour,” or “industry,” does the industrious artisans and mechanics; and **יִקְרָא**, the honourable and respectable members of the community, not included in the two former classes. With respect to this sense of **יָגִירָא**, I think we have an instance in point, Isa. xlv. 14.

where we read, יָגִיעַ מִצְרַיִם וּמִצֹּר כִּישׁ, which Bp. Lowth renders, "the wealth of Egypt, and the merchandise of Cush;" considering יָגִיעַ as put by metonymy for that wealth, which is gotten by industry. But if we consider the context, we shall plainly perceive, that persons, and not inanimate things, are spoken of; and that by יָגִיעַ מִצְרַיִם must be meant "the manufacturers of Egypt, and the merchants of Cush;" that is, the people of those countries respectively distinguished by their turn for arts and commerce; who with the Sabæans, alike remarkable for the tallness of their stature, it is said, should come over and join the party of him, who was employed and countenanced by the true God.

It will, I think, tend much to illustrate this passage, and the corresponding conduct of the Babylonian monarch, related 2 Kings xxiv. 12—17. if I here cite the words of a celebrated modern historian, who describes the similar behaviour of those Barbarians, the Moguls or Tartars, who under Zingis overran and conquered Asia, to their captives, in the following manner. "The inhabitants, who had submitted to their discretion, were ordered to evacuate their houses, and to assemble in some plain adjacent to the city, where a division was made of the vanquished into three parts. The first class consisted of *the soldiers of the garrison, and of the young men capable of bearing arms*: and their fate was instantly decided; they were either enlisted among the Moguls, or they were massacred on the spot by the troops, who, with pointed spears and bended bows, had formed a circle round the captive multitude. The second class, composed of *the young and beautiful women, of the artificers of every rank and profession, and of the more wealthy or honourable citizens*, from whom a private ransom might be expected, was distributed in equal or proportionable lots. The remainder, whose life or death was alike useless to the conquerors, were permitted to return to the city; which in the mean while had been stripped of its valuable furniture, and a tax was imposed on those wretched inhabitants for the indulgence of breathing their native air." Gibbon's Hist. of the decline and fall of the Roman empire, Vol. iii. p. 367. Here we see evidently the distinction of חֲסִידִים, יָגִיעַ, and יִקָּר, and also of those poorer and meaner citizens, who were left in the land, but still tributary to the Chaldeans, first under Zedekiah, and next under Gedaliah, Ch. xxxix. 18. xl. 7.

7. Thou didst allure me, &c.] It would be a singular pleasure to me to contribute in any degree towards clearing the character of a much injured servant of God from those imputations, which have, I think, very undeservedly been cast upon it. He has been particularly censured on account of the passage before us, in which he has been represented as profanely and insolently upbraiding God with having falsified his word to him, and having even forced him into his service, without granting him that protection, which he had encouraged him to expect. This would have been profane insolence indeed; but neither do the words used by him necessarily imply any such thing; nor can they be so understood consistently with what the prophet declares, ver. 11. that God was with him, and so effectually took his part, as to baffle all the

designs of his enemies, and make them ashamed of their unsuccessful malice. And again, ver. 13. he breaks forth into a song of praise and thanksgiving to God for his especial preservation of him. Surely these are not the expressions of one, who complained of being deceived and imposed on by God; and the verb *פָּתַח* may as well signify to *persuade* or *allure* by fair means, as by false and indirect ones; in which latter case only it implies *seduction* and *deceit*. Now God had invited Jeremiah into his service; and proposed both to qualify him for, and to employ him in, a ministry of the most important and honourable kind. "Before I formed thee in the womb, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth from the birth, I separated thee; a prophet unto the nations have I constituted thee." Ch. i. 5. And again, ver. 10. "See I have given thee power this day over nations and over kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to overthrow; and to build, and to plant." Such an offer was sufficiently flattering to human ambition; for if it be accounted highly honourable to serve an earthly prince; how much more to become the special minister and agent of the supreme Lord of heaven and earth? Accordingly Jeremiah says, that he received the commission with joy, and was much pleased for a time with being "called by the name of JEHOVAH God of hosts." Ch. xv. 16. But this was before he had experienced the inconveniences of his new dignity; although he could not pretend that these were altogether concealed from him; for he was apprized from the first, that he should encounter great opposition, which however God would not suffer to prevail against him; Ch. i. 17—19. He could not therefore, nor did he say that he was *deceived*; the utmost he could mean was, that he was *allured* by the dazzling splendour of the office to take it upon him, without weighing all its consequences. So that if any reflection be here intended, it is not levelled at God, but at his own rashness and want of consideration.—There is also as little ground for charging the prophet with saying, that God had *forced* him into a disagreeable office against his will. Yet this seems to be implied in our common translation of *חֲזַקְתִּי וְתוֹכַל*, "Thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed;" in which sense all the ancient versions and the generality of commentators seem to agree. But the verb *חֲזַק* in *Pihel* signifies to *fortify* or *encourage*; as may be seen, Deut. i. 38. iii. 28. Isa. xli. 7. &c. And the words in question, I am persuaded, allude to that encouragement, which the prophet received from God, when he told him at first that he would both enable him to discharge the office, and would support him against all opposers; Ch. i. 7, 8. 17—19. or to that which was afterwards given him, when he began to complain of hardships; Ch. xv. 19—21. This being the case, I see nothing in the prophet's words, but what is consistent with the utmost piety and reverence towards God; who, he says, had prevailed upon him to undertake an honourable, though painful, employment, and had encouraged him to go through with it by assurances, which he acknowledges him to have made good; but that the unmerited scorn and insult he had met with on the part of man had often tempted him to wish, that he could have withdrawn himself fairly out of the way.

Surely in all this, we may say of him as the scripture says of another eminent sufferer, Jeremiah "sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job i. 22.

Ibid. Ridicule hath spent its whole force upon me] כָּלִיז, if an adjective, as it is generally understood to be, must either be a feminine, or have a feminine affix; neither of which could well be accounted for in this place. But it is a verb, and literally signifies, "is perfected," or "carried to its utmost length."

9. Neither will I speak any more in its name] Our English translations, both ancient and modern, make JEHOVAH the antecedent of the affix pronouns in אֲזַכֵּר and בְּשִׁמּוֹ; but I rather take דָּבָר to be so, as it is evidently the subject of the following verb וְדִבַּרְתִּי. To "speak in the name of God's word" is to deliver any thing as bearing the stamp of that authority.

Ibid. Then it becomes in my heart as a burning fire, &c.] I question whether any thing more is meant here, than that his conscience would not let him be easy in suppressing that which he knew it was his duty to speak out. In like manner St Paul says of himself, that "necessity was laid upon him, so that woe would be to him if he preached not the gospel, the dispensation of which had been committed unto him." 1 Cor. ix. 16, 17. The Psalmist makes use of the like expression, "the fire burned," to denote the inward agitation he felt, whilst he endeavoured to stifle the sentiments, which laboured for utterance. Ps. xxxix. 3.

Ibid. being pent up within my bones—] עֲצוּר is the reading, instead of צָר, in nineteen MSS, of which the ancient Bodleian is one; and is right, being the participle *Pahul* masculine in agreement with דָּבָר. "Pent up within my bones," that is, confined within my breast.

10. Report ye terror all around, and we will report it] The prophet says, that he had overheard, or was not unacquainted with, the conversation of many, who encouraged one another to spread reports of danger that threatened him on all sides, in hopes to intimidate him, or to urge him to take some false step, which they, even his most familiar friends, were ever on the watch to turn to his disadvantage. The expressions are borrowed from Ps. xxxi. 13. Recollect also in what manner our Saviour was continually beset by persons, who often put the like treacherous arts in practice, with a view to entrap and intangle him, so as to furnish a specious accusation against him.

11. With an everlasting shame, that shall not be forgotten] Dr DURELL proposes to consider עוֹלָם as compounded of עוֹל and the ם affix, and to render, "The confusion of their wickedness shall not be forgotten." This is a very plausible conjecture, and would afford a good sense. But we find the same words repeated, Ch. xxiii. 40. only the relative אשר is there expressed before לֹא תִשְׁכַּח, which here offers an Ellipsis, according to a very common Hebrew idiom. And the sense is so determined in that place, as to leave no room for doubting in this.

12. And O JEHOVAH of hosts, &c.] Compare Ch. xi. 20.

14. Cursed be the day &c.] Here the prophet is again accused of giving proof of the malignity of his heart by uttering the most horrid imprecations against persons and things that had not injured him, nor could have given him the least cause of complaint. But Mr Lowth in his commentary upon the place has very properly urged in his defence, that what we read here is a lamentation written in a poetical strain, like the *Lessus* or *Nania*, which the *Præficæ* or mourning women used to sing; wherein strong poetical figures are used, and all the circumstances brought in, that are proper to raise the passions, but which it would be extremely wrong to interpret in a strict and literal sense; and therefore that the imprecations here excepted to are not to be looked upon as so many expressions of indignation and malice, but rather of mourning and sorrow. Divested of this poetical heightening, all that the prophet says amounts only to this; that his birthday had proved a very unlucky one to him; and that the man, who had brought his father the news of his birth, had in reality been the messenger of ill tidings instead of good; for that as things had turned out with him, it would have been a kinder and more charitable office to have strangled him in the womb, than to have assisted in bringing him into the world, to lead a life of so much bitterness and disquietude. So much may be said for it in a moral view.---But with respect to its poetical merit, I know of nothing in its kind more truly and beautifully affecting. What could have painted the distress of the prophet's mind with more strong and lively colouring? The pencil is guided by nature; which delights in multiplying passion, especially of the violent and tumultuous kind, and expanding it over whatever has any the slightest relation to or connection with the object that first excited it. See Elements of Criticism, Ch. II. p. i. sect. 5. Bp. Lowth has also cited similar instances of grief discharging itself in invectives and bitter wishes against objects equally blameless and undeserving with those, which our prophet has singled out. Among the rest is the following exclamation in David's celebrated lamentation over Saul and Jonathan, 2 Sam. i. 21. "Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither rain upon you, nor fields of offerings." Upon which he thus descants, "All which if you were to bring to the standard of cool and dispassionate reason, what would appear more absurd? But if you have an eye to nature, and the ordinary flow of the passions, what more genuine, more exact, more beautiful? The falling upon a wrong cause instead of the right, though a fault in Logic, is sometimes an excellence in Poetry; because the leading principle in the former is right reason, in the latter it is passion." De Sac. Poes. Heb. Prælect. xxiii.*

16. Even hearing an outcry, &c.] That is, subject to continual alarms, as cities beset with enemies; or to mournful cries uttered in his own family on account of repeated misfortunes.

17. Even the womb of her that conceived me---] Instead of נִרְמָה

* Quæ omnia, si ad rectæ rationis normam exigas, quid absurdius? si naturam et affectuum motus spectes, quid verius, quid expressius, quid pulchrius? Non Causa pro Causa, in Dialectica flagitium, in Poetica interdum est virtus: quia nimirum illic ratio, hic affectus dominantur.

וְרָחֵם I propose to read וְרָחֵם דְּזֹרְתִי as exegetic of אֲמִי, or answering as a parallel to it. The Syr. has preserved the affix י after דְּזֹרְתִי; but if we read the text as it now stands, how can דְּזֹרְתִי, which is feminine, agree with רָחֵם, which is masculine? דְּזֹרְתִי is found in a parallelism with אֲמִי, Cant. iii. 4. and דְּזֹרְתִי with אֲמִי, Hos. ii. 5.

THE Chapter now marked Ch. xxi. is the first instance of the disorderly arrangement taken notice of pag. 222. From the two first verses we learn, that it was delivered in answer to a message sent by king Zedekiah, when Nebuchadnezzar was coming to make war against him; that is, about the ninth year of his reign. All the intermediate prophecies therefore of Jehoiakim's, and of the eight first years of Zedekiah's reign, ought of right to precede this, which is accordingly postponed to follow in its proper order of succession.

CHAP. XXII.

THE prophecy which follows to Ch. xxiii. v. 9. was evidently delivered in the reign of Jehoiakim; for it speaks of his immediate predecessor as already gone into captivity, and foretells the death of Jehoiakim himself. It is likewise probable, that it followed immediately after what is said in the xixth and xxth Chapters to have passed in the temple precincts; from whence, as from higher ground, the prophet is ordered to "go down to the house of the king of Judah." Compare Ch. xxxvi. 12.

The beginning of this prophecy is an address to the king of Judah, his servants, and people, recommending an inviolable adherence to right and justice as the only means of establishing the throne, and preventing the ruin of both prince and people; v. 1---9. The captivity of Shallum is declared to be irreversible; 10---12. Jehoiakim is severely reproofed for his tyrannical oppressions, and his miserable end foretold; v. 13---19. His family is threatened with a continuance of the like calamities; the fall and captivity of his son Jeconiah are explicitly set forth, and the perpetual exclusion of his seed from the throne; v. 20---30. The name of Zedekiah is not mentioned for obvious reasons; but he is no doubt principally intended in the two first verses of Ch. xxiii. under the general character of those evil shepherds, who should be punished for dispersing, instead of feeding the flock. In the six following verses, with which the prophecy concludes, the people are consoled with gracious promises of future blessings; of their return from captivity, and of happier times under better governors; of the glorious establishment of the Messiah's kingdom; and of the subsequent restoration of all the dispersed Israelites to dwell once more in their own land.

3.---the oppressor---] For פָּוֶשׁ, the participle *Pahul*, *oppressed*, three MSS. read פָּוֶשׁ, and one MS. with the oldest edition of the Bi-

ble read *פִּשְׁעֵי*; as in the parallel passage, Ch. xxi. 12. All the ancient versions follow this reading.

Ibid. Defraud ye not, nor injure by violence] Twenty three MSS. and eight editions read *וְלֹא תִגְזֹל* for *וְלֹא תִגְזֹל*.—The LXX. Syr. Chald. and Vulg. with thirty three MSS. and six editions read *וְלֹא* with the conjunction before *וְלֹא תִגְזֹל*.

4.—in the stead of David] See note on Ch. xiii. 13.

Ibid.—and his servants—] For *וְעַבְדָּיו* the Masoretes read *וְעַבְדָּיו*, which is certainly right, and agreeable to all the ancient versions, and to twenty seven, perhaps twenty nine, MSS. and three editions.

6. Gilead art thou through me, O summit of Lebanon] *לִי*, “through me,” that is, by my disposition or appointment. See note on Ch. xv. 8. Lebanon, it has been observed before, was the highest mountain in Israel, and was therefore an apt emblem of the reigning family advanced to the highest rank and dignity in the state. Gilead was the richest and most fertile part of the country. The meaning then is plainly this, By my providence thou art not only supreme in rank, but hast been rendered exceedingly wealthy and flourishing; but the same power that raised thee will likewise be exerted in reducing thee to the lowest state of indigence and distress.

Ibid. Cities not inhabited] The Masora reads *נִשְׁבְּרוּ* for *נִשְׁבְּרוּ*, and has the concurrence of seven MSS. and the margin of the Bible of Felix Pratensis. But no alteration is necessary, if Buxtorf's rule be admitted, that a plural substantive may be joined with a singular adjective in a distributive sense; thus, “Cities every one of them uninhabited.” See Buxtorf. Thes. Gram. Lib. ii. Cap. 2. But supposing an alteration, instead of *נִשְׁבְּרוּ* or *נִשְׁבְּרוּ*, perhaps we should rather read *נִשְׁבְּרוּ*. See Ezek. xii. 20.

7. And I will commission—] Our English translation here is, “And I will prepare”—But *וְקִדְשֵׁתִי* literally signifies, “And I will sanctify;” that is, I will take them into my service, and authorize them to act against thee under my commission, or as my agents and ministers.

11.—Shallum, the son of Josiah] The son of Josiah who immediately succeeded his father on the throne, was no other than Jehoahaz, whom Pharaoh Necho deposed after a reign of three months, and carried him captive to Egypt, where he died. 2 Kings xxiii. 30.—34. It is therefore probable, that Shallum was his name before he ascended the throne, which he changed for Jehoahaz, as his brothers Eliakim and Mattaniah also assumed the names of Jehoiakim and Zedekiah on the like occasion, 2 Kings xxiii. 34. xxiv. 17. But it has been thought difficult to reconcile this with 1 Chron. iii. 15. where the sons of Josiah are said to be, “the firstborn, Johanan, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum.” Now Johanan could not be the same as Jehoahaz, because Jehoahaz was certainly younger than Jehoiakim; as appears from comparing 2 Kings xxiii. 31. with ver. 36. of the same Chapter. What therefore became of Johanan, we find

not : he may have died before his father ; or he may have been set aside for some objection of incapacity or dislike. But if Jehoahaz be Shallum, then the order of the sons must be inverted in the forecited passage, and we ought to read, “ the third Shallum, the fourth Zedekiah ;” which I believe was the case.

13.—his upper apartments—] Mr. Harmer having remarked, that “ the chief and most ornamented apartments of the palace, which Jehoiakim set himself to build, are here represented by Jeremiah as *upper rooms*,” supposes that “ none of our authors would express themselves after this manner ; the *lower rooms* would be the chief object of their attention ;” but adds that “ it was perfectly natural in Jeremiah ; for the chief rooms of the houses of Aleppo at this day are those above, the ground floor being chiefly made use of for their *horses* and *servants*.” Ch. iii. Obs. 7. But there is nothing peculiar to the East in this ; in England too, the grand apartments in great houses are raised above the ground floor, which is usually taken up for *offices* only.

Ibid.—And payeth him not for his work] Our translators have here rendered מַעְלוֹ, “ his work,” as the word properly signifies. But in other places they have assigned to it the sense of *reward*. The ancient versions have done the same here. And led by such authorities the learned DR. RANDOLPH in a Comment on Ps. cix. added by way of Appendix to two Sermons on *The Excellency of the Jewish Law*, gives the following note on ver. 20. of that Psalm. “ The word מַעַל or מַעְלוֹ, as it signifies *work*, so it sometimes signifies *The wages or reward of work* ; Lev. xix. 13. Job vii. 2. Jer. xxii. 13.”—But that greater stress may not be laid on such authorities than is meet, I shall beg leave to transcribe a note taken from a Pamphlet published soon after the above Comment, in which the texts referred to are thus examined.

“ In the first (Lev. xix. 13.) it is rendered, *The wages (מַעְלוֹ) of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning*, But this is rather a paraphrastic than a literal translation. The *Vulgate* still renders, *opus mercenarii tui*, which is right, for every free man having a right of property in his own labour, if you do not pay an hireling for his day’s work, you detain from him unjustly that *labour* which is his *property*, and which he consented to make over to you only for a valuable consideration ; so long therefore as that consideration is unpaid, his *work* is truly said to *abide with you* ; for it is *his* by right till paid for.—In Job vii. 2. the idea of *wages* is founded on a misapprehension of the author’s sentiment, who had no such thing in view, as is evident from considering the next verse, where Job complains that he had *passed in succession months of vanity*, (that is in vain expectation of relief) and that *nights of weariness had been his constant lot*. The first of these is compared ver. 2. to *the shadow* (the vain hopes of liberty) which the *bondslave (עַבְד)* *gapes after* ; the latter to *the daylabourer’s work*, (מַעְלוֹ) which he *expects* as constantly as the day comes. And in this respect it is, that Job, ver. 1. compares *his days to the days of an hireling*, every one bringing its portion of labour and sorrow along with it.

The translation therefore should be, *As a slave panteth for a shadow, and an hireling looketh for his work; So have I passed in succession months of vanity, and nights of weariness have been allotted me.*—In the last instance, Jer. xxii. 13: our translators have rightly rendered *וַעֲלֹלָהּ לֹא יִתֵּן לוֹ*, and giveth (or payeth) him not for his work; for the verb *נָתַן* signifies *to pay for or to recompense*; see 2 Chron. vi. 23. Ezek. vii. 4. xi. 21. &c. So that, in all these instances *עָלָהּ* or *עָלָהּ* is capable of its usual sense, *work, or labour.*” *Expostulatory Letter to Dr RANDOLPH.* Oxford 1773. page 20.

14.—[and lofty apartments] *מְרוֹמֵי* is a word that occurs no where else in the Hebrew; nor can it be a participle, or participial adjective from *רָוַח* in agreement with *עֲלִיּוֹת*, because of the difference of gender. For my part, I have no doubt that we ought to read *מְרוֹמֵי* *וְעֲלִיּוֹת*, “apartments of heights,” that is, lofty ones; which exactly correspond with *בֵּית מְרוֹחַ*, “a house of dimensions,” or a spacious one. The authority of internal evidence is here so strong, that it seems sufficient to support the emendation without any external testimony in its favour.

Ibid. [Cutting out also for himself windows] In the margin of our English Bibles we read, “my windows;” which certainly cannot be right. DR DURELL was of opinion, that the true reading is *וְחִלְיוֹנָיו סָפַן*; and that the verbs *סָפַן* and *מִשְׁוֹרַת* being infinitives, or rather gerunds, the rendering should be, “And cutteth him out his windows, cieling with cedar, and painting with vermilion.” DR DURELL. In confirmation of this conjecture one MS. reads *וְחִלְיוֹנָיו*, and another *סָפַן* without the conjunction. But many instances occur, where the *ו* final is omitted. See DR KENNICOTT’s Dissert. Gener. § 26. And all the ancient versions favour this supposition. I take *קָרַע* also to be a gerund as well as the two verbs that follow.

15. Shalt thou reign because thou frettest thyself in cedar? For *מִתְחַדְדֵּךְ* the Syr. reads *מִתְחַדְדֵּךְ*, from *חָדַד* to *rejoice*; so that the sense would be, “Shalt thou reign, because thou gratifiest thy taste with living in a palace of cedar?” That is, Will that circumstance contribute to make thee happy? For thus *to reign or be a king* is often used. See 1 Cor. iv. 8. Not that a kingdom or the state of a king is indeed a state of superior happiness, but is generally looked up to as such by those who see nothing but the external pomp and splendour and affluence which usually accompany it. Hence *to be as happy as a king* is a common proverbial expression; and even the writers of the New Testament have borrowed the ideas of *a crown* and *a kingdom* to represent the glory and happiness that await good Christians in another life. But there seems to be no reason for presuming an alteration to be necessary in the text, since *מִתְחַדְדֵּךְ*, from *חָדַד* to *fret* and *grieve*, signifies one that is a prey to the uneasy passions of discontent and remorse. And the question will then be something of a sarcastic nature, which asks, “Shalt thou reign, because thou frettest thyself in cedar?” As if it had been said, Is this the inestimable privilege of royalty, this the circumstance which constitutes thy happiness as a king, to carry

continually about thee the pangs of guilt, anxiety, and remorse in a splendid palace? In like manner speaks Horace of

————miseros tumultus

Mentis, et curas laqueata circum

Tecta volantis. Od. Lib. II. xvi. 10.

And it is obvious how well this suits with the following context, which places in a striking contrast the happiness of the good Josiah resulting from the consciousness of having fulfilled the duties of his station with pious integrity. "Did not thy father eat and drink, that is, partake of all the real comforts and conveniences which human life requires, in as great a degree as thyself? But at the same time governing with impartial justice and equity, he enjoyed in consequence thereof that solid and true felicity, which nothing but the practice of virtue and religion, emphatically called "the knowing of God," can bestow."

18.—Ah her glory!] So **הדרת** must be rendered, if the text be right, and must respect Jehoiakim's queen, whose "glory" was in a manner departed from her on the death of her husband; as in the former stanza the word **אחות**, "sister," can be understood of none but her. The prophet's meaning then will be, that Jehoiakim's obsequies should not be celebrated with the usual funeral lamentations; either on the part of his relations, bemoaning his loss, and condoling with the queen, their widowed sister; or on the part of his domestics, bewailing the misfortune they had themselves sustained in being deprived of so good a master, and in seeing the degradation of their unhappy mistress.—It must however be noted, that seven MSS. in the text, and two in the margin read **הדרו**; and five MSS. read **הדר**. The ancient Bodleian MS. No. 1. and one more read **הדרוהו**. But I give the preference to the present text taken according to the explanation above.

19. With the burial of an ass shall he be buried] Let me be allowed here to correct what has been before erroneously, I think, laid down p. 225. in the epitome given of Jehoiakim's reign, that "in his fourth year he was loaded with chains, when the king of Babylon took Jerusalem the first time;" and that "he was afterwards slain without the gates of Jerusalem in an attempt to check the depredations of the enemy." That he was once bound in fetters by the king of Babylon with intent to carry him to Babylon, is said 2 Chro. xxxvi. 6. But whether at the first or second time that he made war upon him, is not specified. Dr Prideaux says it was the first time, whose opinion I followed both in this circumstance and in that of his death, without having duly attended to Ezek. xix. 8, 9. where we read, that "the nations set upon him on every side from the provinces, and spread their net over him, "in their pit he was taken: and they put him in ward in chains, and brought him to the king of Babylon; and he put him into holds, "that his voice might no more be heard upon the mountains of Israel." For from hence it may be inferred, that as he is not said to have been put in chains more than once, he was more liberally treated at first on surrendering without resistance to the king of Babylon, who left him in possession of the kingdom. But on his having rebelled after-

wards, the nations, meaning the Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites and Ammonites, who were sent to ravage Judah, as we learn from 2 Kings xxiv. 2. having in an ambuscade surprised, and not slain, but made him prisoner, carried him to the king of Babylon, who detained him in close custody till he could conveniently send him to Babylon. But this design being frustrated by his previous death, which happened soon after his confinement, Nebuchadnezzar, at once to testify his indignation against him, and perhaps to intimidate his successor from exasperating him by a long resistance, ordered his dead body to be ignominiously cast forth without burial before the walls of Jerusalem; as is foretold both here and Ch. xxxvi. 30.

It may be observed indeed, that Josephus's narrative differs materially in many particulars from the account which I have given of the transactions of these times. But if I have followed the authority of Scripture in preference to that of Josephus, who is sometimes hardly consistent with himself, I trust I shall not need excuse. In the first place Josephus says (Ant. Lib. x. Cap. 6. Ed. Hudson) that "Nebuchadnezzar made no attempt against the Jews till the eighth year of Jehoiakim's reign, which was the fourth of his own reign; when by threats he compelled Jehoiakim to submit, and pay him tribute, which he did for three years." But Daniel says expressly, Ch. i. 1. that Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem in the third year of Jehoiakim, and besieged it; by which some are willing to understand, that he entered upon his expedition in the third, but did not actually appear against Jerusalem till the fourth year of Jehoiakim, after having first defeated the Egyptian army at Carchemish*. Now Daniel was himself one of the captives whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away at this time, and therefore may reasonably be presumed to have not mistaken the date. Further, Daniel says, Ch. ii. that in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he was brought before that king, and expounded his dream. But the second year according to Daniel, who follows the Babylonish computation from the death of that prince's father, corresponds with his fourth year according to those who date his reign from the time he was associated with his father in the empire. Daniel there-

* This apparent difference may perhaps be reconciled by supposing that the Babylonians and Jews began their year at different seasons, and that Daniel followed the former, whilst the other sacred writers conformed to the latter. To explain this let it be remembered, that before the year 1752, when uniformity was established by act of Parliament, the year in England had two different commencements, one from the 1st day of January, the other from the 15th day of March following, so that an event which happened in the interval was by some attributed to the year 1750, and by others to 1751 of the Christian Era. Hence we see that if the commencement of the Babylonian year was subsequent to that of the Jewish, and the siege and taking of Jerusalem happened in the intermediate time, at Babylon it might be dated in the third, and at Jerusalem in the fourth year of Jehoiakim. The Jews themselves had two different dates for the beginning of their year. The one took place on the first day of the month Abib, by divine institution, on their coming out of Egypt, the other on the first day of Tisri, six months later, which was in common use before, and was probably the same that was observed by their Syrian neighbours, from whence the nation derived their origin.

fore was brought in before Nebuchadnezzar at Babylon in the very year which Josephus has fixed on for his first expedition against Jerusalem. But it appears from Dan. i. 5, 18. that Daniel was not introduced to the king till after he had been three years in training under the discipline of the Chaldeans. The captivity therefore of Daniel must have begun, and consequently Jehoiakim must have fallen under the dominion of Nebuchadnezzar, at least three years before the time which Josephus has assigned for it.

Again, Josephus says that "soon after Jehoiakim's revolt, the king of Babylon advanced with an army in person, and that Jehoiakim readily admitted him into Jerusalem, not suspicious of any harm, as neither having shut the gates, nor made any preparation to oppose him: but that Nebuchadnezzar, having entered the city, instantly put him to death, and cast his dead body unburied without the walls." Now the former part of this account, respecting the manner of the king of Babylon's reception into Jerusalem, I conceive to be true; except only that it happened at the time of his former approach to the city. But after Jehoiakim's revolt, the sacred historian expressly says, 2 Kings xxiv. 2. that Nebuchadnezzar did not come in person; but sent troops of Chaldeans joined with the neighbouring nations to distress him. And it is also said, Ezek. xix. 8. as has been already observed, that he was not taken prisoner by the king of Babylon himself, but by the nations beforementioned, who delivered him into the king of Babylon's hand. Besides which, the words of the sacred history, 2 Kings xxiv. 10, 11. lead us to conclude, that Nebuchadnezzar did not join his army in person, till after his servants had laid siege to Jerusalem; and that they had not besieged it, till after Jeconiah had reigned nearly three months. So that all Josephus's account of this matter also, except only that Jehoiakim's body was cast forth without burial, appears to be erroneous; if the authority of Scripture is at all to be depended on.

Nor is the historian more credible in his relation of what befel Jehoiakim's son and successor. For if the time of the king of Babylon's coming up to his army before Jerusalem has been rightly stated above, then Jeconiah must have reigned three months at least without the authority of the king of Babylon, and not "by his appointment," as Josephus has related. Further, Josephus relates that "Nebuchadnezzar having, whilst he was at Jerusalem, made Jeconiah king, afterwards repented of what he had done, and sent an army to besiege him; and that Jeconiah surrendered himself to the king of Babylon's generals upon a promise of indemnity; but that within a twelvemonth the terms of capitulation were violated, and Jeconiah with his mother and friends were by the king's special orders sent captives to Babylon." All this is quite inconsistent with what we read 2 Kings xxiv. 11—17. that the king of Babylon was present in person, and that Jeconiah went out to him with his mother, &c. and was directly carried to Babylon, not having reigned in all, according to the most extended account, more than three months and ten days; and that Zedekiah his uncle was immediately made king in his stead. The circumstance of

the capitulation having been broken within a twelvemonth seems to have been suggested to Josephus by a mistaken interpretation of **דשננה** **לחשובה**, 2 Chro. xxxvi. 10. which Josephus understood to mean "within the revolution of a year;" but it evidently denotes no more than "at the return, or beginning of the new year."

20. Go up to Lebanon, and cry] The verbs here being feminine, Jerusalem is generally supposed to be addressed; but I rather think the royal house or family of Judah is meant; the whole chapter being a prophecy concerning it and its several branches. She is styled, "inhabitant of Lebanon," ver. 23. for the same reason as her state and dignity is denoted ver. 6. by "the summit of Lebanon," as being highest of all. See note above. Here she is called upon ironically to go to the tops of the high mountains, and to the frontiers of the country, and cry aloud for help to the neighbouring powers; but in vain; since all those who had any inclination to favour her, the Egyptians in particular, were themselves crushed and disabled by the arms of the king of Babylon.

Ibid.—the borders—] **עבריים** signify not only the fords or passages of a river, but all the country along each bank; and in general all those parts through which people pass to go from one country to another, that is, the borders or extremities. See Ch. xlix. 32. 1 Kings iv. 24.

22. A blast shall carry off all thy pastors] God's judgments are compared to a scorching and blasting wind. See Ch. iv. 12. Isai. xli. 16. lvii. 13. This, it is here said, should consume all the heads and governors of the family; as it happened to the four last kings of it in succession.

23. O inhabitant of Lebanon] See note on ver. 20. For **יִשְׁבֹּתִי** the Masora with eleven MSS. and one edition in the margin, reads **יִשְׁבֹּת** or **יִשְׁבֹּת**; and with thirteen MSS. and three editions for **מִקְנֹנִי** reads **מִקְנֹנִת** or **מִקְנֹנִת**. It is possible however that here as in other places the paragogic י may have been used. See note on Ch. xiii. 21.

Ibid.—how gracious wilt thou be made—] The Masora here discards the י final in **נִדְּוֹנִי**, as in the preceding participles, and is countenanced by fifty four MSS. and five editions. The LXX. Syr. Chald. and Vulg. all consider the verb as in the 2d pers. sing. though, I think, none of them favour the precise word **נִדְּוֹנִת**. But I am inclined to think the text is right as it stands at present; and that as **דִּנְן** in *Kal* signifies *to be gracious*; so in *Niphal* the verb should be rendered *to be made such* in temper and disposition. **נִדְּוֹנִי** therefore, being the participle in *Niphal*, will signify one that from having been obstinate and inflexible in prosperity, is changed by adversity, and made courteous and condescending, ready to comply with and follow admonition and good advice.

24. Coniah—] Some fanciful reasons have been suggested by the Rabbinical writers and others for calling Jeconiah in this Chapter by the name of Coniah. But if it be not a mistake in the text, I should suppose this prince to have been originally called Coniah, and to have

changed his name to Jeconiah on ascending the throne, as was done by his father and uncles.

26. And I will cast thee forth, and thy mother] Fulfilled, 2 Kings xxiv. 15.

30. Write ye this man childless—] I cannot agree with the generality of commentators, who suppose that God hereby declares it as a thing certain, and as it were orders it to be inserted among the public acts of his government, that Jeconiah should die absolutely childless. Other parts of Scripture positively assert him to have had children, 1 Chron. iii. 17, 18. Mat. i. 12. And both ver. 28. and the subsequent part of this verse imply that he either had, or should have seed. But the historians and chroniclers of the times are called upon, and directed to set him down childless; not as being literally so, but yet the same to all intents and purposes of public life; for he was to be the last of his race that should sit upon the throne of David; and his descendents were no more to figure as kings, but to be reduced to the rank and obscurity of private persons. And in this sense the prophecy was actually fulfilled; for allowing Zerubbabel, who is called governor of Judah, Hagg. i. 1. to have been a lineal descendent of Jeconiah, yet he could not be said to sit upon the throne of David, and reign, or rule, in Judah, seeing he was but a provincial governor, a mere servant of the king of Persia, in whom the sovereignty resided; nor were any of those kings, who afterwards reigned in Judah, even of the family of David, until the time of Christ, who, though of David's seed, was not the seed of Jeconiah, but descended from the same ancestor in a collateral line.

CHAP. XXIII.

1. Ho to the shepherds—] חור I take to be here a particle of calling, as the LXX. and Syr. represent it; and not of commination, as in our English translation. The latter wicked kings of David's race, and particularly Zedekiah (whom it was not proper to mention by name, as the prospect of his succession might excite the jealousy of the reigning monarch) are here called upon to attend to the divine judgments coming upon them.

3.—And I will bring them back to their own fold] Twenty one MSS. and four editions read נורן in the singular number instead of נורן. The singular number is also expressed both in the LXX. and Syr. versions. But perhaps instead of נורן and נורן we ought rather to read נור and נור, as all the other references to the same antecedent are in the masculine gender.

4. Nor shall they be visited—] Our present English translation is, "Neither shall they be lacking." But I think it more suitable to follow the common use of the verb פקר, and to understand thereby, that the people should no more be visited with those calamities, to which through the misconduct of former governors they had been exposed. *Delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi.*

5.—a righteous Branch—] See again, Ch. xxxiii. 15, 16. and compare Ps. cxxxii. 17. Isai. iv. 2. xi. 1. Zech. iii. 8. vi. 12. Luke i. 69.

Ibid.—a king shall reign and act wisely—] See Isai. xxxii. 1.

6. And this is the name by which JEHOVAH shall call him, OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS] Literally, according to the Hebrew idiom, “And this is his name, which JEHOVAH shall call, OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS;” a phrase exactly the same as, “And JEHOVAH shall call him so;” which, as I have before observed in note on Ch. xx. 3. implies that God would make him such as he called him; that is, “Our righteousness,” or the author and means of our salvation and acceptance. So by the same metonymy Christ is said to “have been made of God unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” 1 Cor. i. 30.

I doubt not but some persons will be offended with me for depriving them by this translation of a favourite argument for proving the divinity of our Saviour from the Old Testament. But I cannot help it: I have done it with no ill design, but purely because I think, and am morally sure, that the text, as it stands, will not properly admit of any other construction. The LXX. have so translated before me, in an age when there could not possibly be any bias of prejudice either for or against the beforementioned doctrine; a doctrine which draws its *decisive* proofs from the New Testament only. In the parallel passage Ch. xxxiii. 16. the expression is a little varied, but the sense according to a just and literal translation is precisely the same; “And this is He whom JEHOVAH shall call, OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

7. After this—] See note on the parallel passage, Ch. xvi. 14.

9. CONCERNING THE PROPHETS] This is prefixed as a title to distinguish the following head of prophecy; which, though probably delivered at the same time with the foregoing one, treats of a subject entirely different. In like manner after a general title placed at the head of the prophecies concerning the heathen nations, we find the several particulars distinctly prefaced with לַמְצָרִים, לַמּוֹאֵב, לַבְנֵי עַמּוֹן, לַאֲדוֹם, &c. Ch. xlvi. 1, 2. xlviii. 1. xlix. 1, 7. &c. &c.

Jeremiah testifies the horror he felt within him on contemplating the wickedness of the priests and prophets of Judah, and the vengeance which God was about to execute upon them for the corruption which had been diffused through the whole land by the influence of their evil doctrines and example, v. 9—15. He exhorts the people in the name of God not to listen to the words of the prophets that prophesied of peace, when evil was determined, and would infallibly take place, as would in time appear; and charges those prophets with speaking of themselves, and not from the divine commission, v. 16—22. God asserts his omnipresence and omniscience; and reproveth the audaciousness of the false prophets, who affected to place their own idle dreams on a level with the all powerful and efficacious word of divine revelation; declaring himself against the several species of those impostors, v. 23—32. In fine he requireth all sorts of persons to desist from an indecency in common use, of styling his word a burden; and threatens

severely to punish those, who in defiance of this command should continue to cast such a slur upon it.

10.—adulterers] This term, which properly respects those who violate the marriage bed, seems here extended to such as by fraud and falsehood circumvent others, and tempt them to join in the commission of those illicit actions, which imply breach of faith and duty towards God. See ver. 14.

Ibid.—because of these] So מִפְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים is rendered both by the LXX and Syr. and, I think, rightly; for I see nothing that “swearing,” which our English translators and others understand by אֱלֹהִים, has to do in the case.

Ibid. the pastures of the waste—] See note on Ch. ix. 10.

Ibid. Their will also—] Our translators have rendered מְרוֹצָתָם “their course,” from רוץ *to run*; and in the margin, “their violence,” from רָצַץ *to crush or bruise*. But it seems more properly to be here derived from רָצוּ, and to signify “their will,” or “choice;” as גְּבוּרָתָם does the exertion of “their power” “or “might” in conformity to such a previous determination of the mind.

11. Even in my house—] See Ch. vii. 30.

12.—their way become as slippery places—] See Ps. xxxv. 6.

13, 14. As in the prophets of Samaria—so in the prophets of Jerusalem—] See ו thus used in the way of comparison, 2 Sam. xv. 34. So likewise the Syr. here renders it.

13. They prophesied—] דִּנְבְּאוּ—This verb is not used in *Hiphil*, except here and Ezek. xxxvii. 10. in which latter place for דִּנְבְּאוּתִי nine MSS. read ודִּנְבְּאוּתִי in *Hiithpahal*; and one MS. apparently reads דִּנְבְּאוּ here too; which may probably be right, as it agrees with the versions of the LXX. Syr. and Vulgate.

But one MS. here reads דִּנְבֵּא, the infinitive in *Niphal*, which likewise is no bad emendation, and is rather countenanced by the like use of the two infinitives, נִאֲוֶה וְדִלֵּךְ, ver. 14. expressing that in which “the horrible thing,” שַׁעֲרֵרָה, consisted, of which the prophets of Jerusalem were guilty; as this is intended to specify the “disgustful practice,” דַּעֲלָה, seen in the prophets of Samaria. In this latter case we should render

Prophesying in the name of Baal, so as to cause my people Israel to err.

14. Committing adultery, and walking in falsehood] See note on ver. 10.

15—water of hemlock—] See note on Ch. viii. 14.

16. Not speaking after the mouth of JEHOVAH] It is obvious that מִפִּי יְהוָה ought to be constructed with the preceding words which renders all clear. Five MSS. with the LXX. and Syr. read מִפִּי יְהוָה, “and not speaking after the mouth of JEHOVAH.”

17. And whilst every one goeth after—] All the ancient versions render as if they had read וְלִכְלֵל, and so do our English translators.

But as none of the collated MSS. verify this reading, I have considered כָּל הוֹלֵךְ as the participle and noun used absolutely, *Omnibus ambulantis*.

18. And hath seen and heard the matter] Instead of אֶת־דְּבָרֵי I am for reading אֶת־דְּבָרָא, and prefixing ו to the following word מִי, rendering אֶת־דְּבָרָא, "the matter" or proceeding, settled and determined in the privy counsel of JEHOVAH; and this might not improperly be said to be *seen* as well as *heard*. Again for דְּבָרֵי, which signifies, "my word, or words," the Masora with forty one, perhaps forty three, MSS. and eight Editions read, דְּבָרֵי; but I am more inclined to think the true reading may have been דְּבָרָיו, "his words;" and that the ו was accidentally dropt or lost in the same letter following at the beginning of the next word; a case which has frequently happened. And by thus distinguishing between אֶת־דְּבָרָא, "the matter," and דְּבָרָיו "his words," the words of JEHOVAH treating of-and deciding upon it, an unmeaning tautology seems to be avoided:

19. Behold the whirlwind of JEHOVAH, it goeth forth hot] The hot scorching wind blowing from the south, of which notice has been already taken in note on Ch. iv. 11, 12. is evidently here alluded to. מַחֲזוּלִיל and יִזְזוּל in the following hemistich are both from the same root, and seem to have the same force as the Arabic verb *سَمِعَ descendit, requievit, incidit, incubuit*. I have therefore rendered it "a settling wind," one that blows not with a transient blast, but exerts a continued force upon the head of the unfortunate traveller, till it has effectually destroyed him. See Maillet's description of the malignant effects of such a wind cited at large; Harmer's Observ. Ch. i. Obs. 16. In the parallel passage, Ch. xxx. 23. instead of מַחֲזוּלִיל the word used is מַחֲזוּרִיר, a word which has exactly the same signification as is here attributed to מַחֲזוּלִיל.

20. The anger—] Two MSS. read חֲרוֹן אַף, "The fierce anger;" as Ch. xxx. 24.

Ibid.—ye shall understand it clearly] The LXX. Syr. and Vulgate with two MSS. having read מִזְמָת in the singular number instead of מִזְמוֹת, I have followed this reading, which furnishes a proper antecedent to בָּרָא in this clause. All the ancient versions, except the Vulgate and Theodotion, omit בִּינָרָא, which does not appear in the parallel passage, Ch. xxx. 24. except in two MSS.

22. And would have turned them] וַיִּשְׁבּוּ is the reading of thirty six, perhaps thirty seven, MSS. and five Editions; and is marked in the margin of Van der Hooght's Edition.

26. How long shall the fire be in the heart?] Houbigant objects, and justly, as it should seem, to the interrogation in הֲיֵשׁ after the prior interrogation מִי עַד מָתַי. But instead of rejecting the ה, and reading simply יֵשׁ, as he does, I am inclined to think that הֲיֵשׁ is corruptly written for הֲיֵשׁ, which scarcely differs in pronunciation. In Ch. xx. 9. the prophet meaning to say, that, though he was sometimes resolved not to declare any more the word of JEHOVAH revealed to him, he could not

forbear, expresses himself thus, וַחֲרִיר בְּלִבִּי כֶּאֱשׁ, "Then it becomes in mine heart as fire." In like manner the false prophets here spoken of, who pretended to dreams, may be understood to ask, "How long shall the fire be in the heart?" that is, how long shall we be made uneasy by suppressing, and not telling our dreams? With this the following context well agrees; for after premising that these dreamers were false prophets, who studied to withdraw the people from their religious allegiance, God says, v. 28, that they might tell their dreams, if they would, provided they did not presume to blend them with the word revealed by him to his true prophets; which would be mixing chaff with good wheat.

29. Is not the power of my word like fire] For נִרְאָה I am strongly inclined to suspect the true reading to have been כִּרְאָה; which is very much countenanced by the version of the Chaldee Paraphrast. Compare Heb. iv. 12.

30. That purloin my words—] Those persons seem to be meant, who by any indirect methods hindered the people from receiving the true revealed word of God, prejudicing them against those who were commissioned to declare it, or calumniating and misrepresenting its purport.

31. That take their own tongue, and say, He hath said] The phrase of "taking their own tongue" is, I think, very easily to be understood of those, who without any inspiration take upon them to deliver messages to the people, and pretend that they came from God. "Taking their own tongue" may signify, "taking them into employ;" as God says, Ch. xxv. 9. "And I will take, וְלִקְחוֹתִי, all the families of the north," that is, I will engage them in my service.

32.—by their groundless lies] בְּשִׁקְרֵיהֶם וּבַפְחָזוֹתָם—These words I consider as an *Hendiadys*; or they may be rendered, "by their lies and by their groundless tales." פְּחָזִין signifies that which is not *solid* or *stable*.

33. The remaining part of this Chapter is directed against those, who called the word of God spoken by the true prophets A BURDEN, by way of reproach; meaning that it always portended evil, and never good; a burden signifying a calamitous prophecy. Ahab intended to cast the same slur on the prophet Micaiah, when he represented him as one that never prophesied good concerning him, but evil. 1 Kings xxii. 8.

Ibid. Or a prophet—] Three MSS. read נְבִיאִים without the article prefixed; and it ought to be so, as well as כְּדֹרִין.

Ibid.—Ye are the burden] The LXX. Syr. Chald. and Vulg. all seem to have read the words thus, אַתֶּם הַמִּשָּׁא, instead of מִשָּׁא מִמֶּנּוּ. The word מִשָּׁא is then applied in a somewhat different sense from what was intended in the question. "Ye are the burden;" that is, Ye are become an intolerable load to JEHOVAH, of which he will quickly discharge himself. The verb נָשָׂא signifies *to loosen* or *disengage one's self* from any thing.

36. For the burden of every man shall be his own word] That is, Every man shall have most reason to regard his own word as hurtful and prejudicial to him. For the words of God were delivered with a salutary tendency to warn sinners of the danger of their situation, and to call them to repentance. Those therefore who make a right use of them, will have no cause to complain. But those who despise and reject them, pervert that which should have been for their wealth into an occasion of falling.

39. Therefore, behold, I will both take you up altogether] It is obvious that according to the Hebrew idiom נשיתי and נשא (or נשוא, as it is in twelve MSS. and one Edition) are the same verb repeated, with an allusion to "the burden" before spoken of, ver. 33. Compare Hos. i. 6. נשיתי is put for נשאתי, according to the form of the verbs quiescent in ת, which is often assumed by those quiescent in א.

40. And a perpetual disgrace] Three MSS. for וכלמות read וכלמת, as Ch. xx. 11. The ancient Bodleian MS. No. 1. is one of them. All the ancient versions render the word in the singular number.

CHAP. XXIV. is postponed in regard to the order of time.

CHAP. XXV.

THIS Chapter seems to come next in succession to Ch. xxii, xxiii. It is dated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, and most probably belonged to the earliest part of that year. For the defeat of the Egyptians at Carchemish, and the subsequent taking of Jerusalem, are both placed in the same year. But from ver. 9. I think it may be concluded, that Nebuchadnezzar had but just entered upon his expedition, and had not yet carried into execution any of those designs, for which God there says he would send and take him.

The prophet reproveth the Jews for their disregard of the divine calls to repentance; v. 1—7. He foretelleth their subjugation, together with that of the neighbouring nations, to the king of Babylon for seventy years, and the fall of the Babylonish empire at that period; v. 8—14. The same is foreshewn under the symbol of the cup of God's wrath, with which Jeremiah is sent, perhaps in a vision, unto all the nations, which are enumerated at large, to make them drink of it to their utter subversion; v. 15—29. And the like prophecy is the third time repeated in a strain of sublime and poetic imagery; ver. 30.—to the end.

1.—the same was the first year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon] That is, according to the Jewish mode of computing his reign from the time of his being associated with his father in the empire, before he set out on his Syrian expedition. But the Babylonians do not reckon his reign to have begun till two years after, upon his father's death.

3.---rising early---] For **אשכנז** one MS. and another in the margin read **אשכנז**; and eight MSS. and two editions read **אשכנז**, as in the next verse; in the ancient Bodl. MS. No. 1. the **א** is upon a rasure. There is no doubt but this may be reckoned among the instances where the **א** is substituted by mistake for **א**. See note on Ch. iv. 19.

7.---on purpose to provoke me---] For **אכעסוני** the Masora with twenty five MSS. and three editions reads **אכעסני**, conformably to Ch. vii. 18. xxxii. 29.---**למען** expresses here the correspondency of the end to the means.

9.---and Nebuchadrezzar---] For **נבוכדנצר** two MSS. read **נבוכדנצר**, which is most probably the right reading. In one MS. the **נ** is upon a rasure.

10.---the sound of milstones, and the light of a candle] Mr Harmer has an excellent observation on this place, which I cannot do better than present the reader with at large.

“The time for grinding their corn is the morning; which consideration makes the prophet’s selecting the noise of milstones, and the lighting up of candles, as circumstances belonging to inhabited places, appear in a view, which no commentators, that I have examined, have taken any notice of.”

“I am indebted to Sir John Chardin’s MS. for the knowledge of this fact. It informs us that “in the East they grind their corn at “break of day; and that when one goes out in a morning, one hears “every where the noise of the mill; and that it is the noise that often “awakens people.”

“It has been commonly known that they bake every day; and that they usually grind their corn as they want it; but this passage informs us, that it is the first work done in a morning, as well as that this grinding of their mills makes a considerable noise, and attracts every ear; and as the lighting up of candles begins the evening, there is an agreeable contrast observable in these words: “Moreover I will take from “thee the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the “bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of milstones, and “the light of the candle. And their whole land shall be a desolation.” Gloomy shall be the silence of the morning, melancholy the shadows of the evening, no cheerful noise to animate the one, no enlivening ray to soften the gloom of the other. Desolation shall every where reign.”

“A land may abound with habitations, and furnish an agreeable abode, where the voice of mirth is not heard---none of the songs, the music, and the dances of nuptial solemnities; but in the East, where no milstones are heard in the morning, no light seen in the evening, it must be a dreary dismal solitude.” Ch. iv. Obs. 4. See also Ch. iii. Obs. 18.

11.---and an astonishment---] Seventeen MSS. among which are several of the most ancient, and three editions, read **אשכנז**, with the conjunction; which is also prefixed by the Syr. and Vulgate. The word is wholly omitted in the common editions of the LXX; but the MS. Pachom. reads **και σπηναισι**.

Ibid.—and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years] This period of the nations' servitude must be computed from the defeat of the Egyptians at Carchemish, in the same year that this prophecy was given, when Nebuchadnezzar reduced the neighbouring nations of Syria and Palestine, as well as Jerusalem, under his subjection. This was near two years before the heathen Chronologers in general begin his reign, his father being still living. After his father's death Nebuchadnezzar, according to Ptolmey's canon, reigned forty three years, Ilverodamus, or Evilmerodach, his son, two, Neriglissar four, and Nabonadius, supposed to be Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, seventeen, to which if we add two years of Darius the Mede, who is said Dan. ix. 1. to have been made king over the realm of the Chaldeans, we shall find the nations to have continued all that time, nearly seventy years, in subjection more or less to the king of Babylon. But after the accession of Cyrus, who put an end to the Babylonish monarchy, the nations could serve the king of Babylon no longer, because there was no longer a king of Babylon to serve; for the kings of Persia were never called kings of Babylon; but Babylon became itself a subject and dependent province under a subordinate governor, and began from that instant to experience in some degree those divine visitations, which terminated at length in what is so justly called in the next verse "perpetual desolations." See Bp. Lowth's Note on Isai. xiii. 19.

The same period is likewise precisely determined under a somewhat different view, Ch. xxix. 10. Here God promises that "at the very time when seventy years were accomplished in Babylon, שבעים שנים, he would visit his people, and perform his good word towards them, in causing them to return to their own place." He did so accordingly in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, exactly seventy years after the first carrying away of the people captives from Jerusalem to Babylon; when, as the sacred historian expressly testifies, 2 Chro. xxxvi. 22. Ezra i. 1. "that the word of JEHOVAH by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, God stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation," permitting the Jews honourably to return, and in pursuance of that edict they did immediately return in great numbers to Jerusalem. Now there is no other passage in the writings of Jeremiah, besides those already cited, where any direct mention is made of a period of seventy years. It is evident therefore, that this same period of seventy years must be intended Dan. ix. 2. "whereof the word of JEHOVAH," it is said, "came unto Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." I trust therefore that I have not been mistaken (as the Reverend Dr Priestly in the Observations prefixed to his Harmony of the Evangelists, Sect. 3. supposes me to be) in having upon such good authority fixed on the decree or proclamation of Cyrus beforementioned for the point of coincidence, where the seventy years terminate, alluded to Dan. ix. 24. and which the Doctor himself is pleased to allow to be the same with those spoken of at the beginning of the Chapter, and from which the subsequent

term of seventy seven weeks must be reckoned to begin *. I grant indeed that the prophet Zechariah Ch. i. 12. speaks of another term of seventy years, which, as the learned gentleman states, may have commenced somewhere about the last siege of Jerusalem, and been carried down as far as to the building of the temple under Darius Hystaspes. During this term too, no doubt, the marks of God's indignation may have subsisted, and actually did subsist, at Jerusalem, as falling in with those troublous times, or times of distress, marked by Daniel as belonging to his second period of seventy seven weeks, in which he says the building of Jerusalem should notwithstanding go forward, and the city should continually improve in consideration and figure †. But that the seventy years of Zechariah were the same with those which had before been the subject of Jeremiah's predictions, cannot possibly be admitted consistently with those texts of Scripture already referred to; nor indeed does Zechariah himself say any thing that necessarily leads to such a conclusion. In vain therefore is it to think of ascertaining by circumstances quite foreign to the purpose the dates which belong to Daniel's prophecy.

12.—his nation—] Our translators here render חֲגִי חֲחֹוֹי "that nation;" but the Syriac "his people;" and I am myself inclined to look upon חֲחֹוֹי to be the substantive pronoun, used in the genitive case, from considering it in many other places, but particularly Gen. xvii. 14. Exod. xii. 15. Lev. vii. 20, &c. where it seems in like manner to be governed of חֲנַפֵּשׁ, and referred to some other antecedent, because the gender of נַפֵּשׁ is determined by the verb which follows to be feminine; so that the proper translation in those places would be, "The soul of HIM," of THE SAME who had been guilty of the transgression specified, "shall be cut off, &c."

Ibid.—and I will make IT—] For אֶחָד the LXX. render αὐτός, and one MS. reads אֶחָד. Another reads אֶחָד.

13. And I will bring upon that land—] וְחֲבָאוֹתִי ---The Masora here reads וְחֲבָאוֹתִי, and so do thirty three MSS. and three editions. But this can hardly be deemed a various reading, it being only an abbreviated mode of writing חֲבָאוֹתִי or חֲבָאוֹתִי, which is the regular form of the verbs quiescent in ך the second radical.---According to the remark in the last note but one, חֲחֹוֹי should be referred to the word כְּשִׁדִּים, which is the name of the country, as Ch. i. 10. li. 24. not of the people; and אֶרֶץ which is joined with it in the last verse is used in the masculine gender, if אֶחָד be the true reading. I take therefore the true construction of חֲחֹוֹי חֲחֹוֹי, to be "the land of the same," that is, of Chaldea; although I have still rendered, "that land;" the sense being all one here, whichever way it is expressed.

Ibid.--in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied concerning the nations] Those prophecies are meant, which are to be found altogether from Ch. xli. to Ch. li. inclusively; and which the LXX. have introduced in this place.

* See my Dissertation on Daniel's Prophecy, Ch. ix. ver. 20. to the end.

† Ibid. p. 42.

14. For of them, even of these, shall many nations and great kings exact service.--] The verb עָבַד, when ב is prefixed to the object, signifies to *exact* or *make use of the service of another*. See Ch. xxii. 13. xxvii. 7. xxx. 8. xxxiv. 9. It is probable the original reading here was יַעֲבֹד, and that the י has been lost in that of the preceding word. The LXX. have wholly omitted this verse; but in one of the Greek versions noticed in the Hexaplar we find, καταδουλοῦσθαι γὰρ αὐτοῖς which corresponds with יַעֲבֹד בּוֹ.

15. Take the cup of the wine of this wrath---] Those circumstances which constitute the good and evil of human life are often represented in Scripture as the ingredients of a cup, which God, as master of a feast, mixes up, and distributes to the several guests, as he thinks fit. Hence when our Saviour asks his disciples James and John, whether they were able to drink of the cup which he was to drink of, he means, whether they had resolution and patience to undergo the like sufferings and afflictions, as his Father had allotted for him. Matt. xx. 22. And in the like sense he prays, Matt. xxvi. 39. "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me." Accordingly by this image of "the cup of the wine of God's wrath," we are to understand those dreadful and afflictive judgments, which an incensed God was about to inflict on the object of his displeasure. And Jeremiah the prophet, who announced them, is considered as acting the part of a cupbearer, carrying the cup round to those who were appointed to drink of it; the effects of which were to appear in the intoxication, that is, the terror and astonishment, the confusion and desolation, that should prevail among them. See Bp. Lowth's note on Isa. li. 21. and compare Rev. xiv. 10. xvi. 19.

Ibid.---and tender it---to drink] For וְשָׁתוּ thirteen MSS. read וְשָׁקוּ, without the paragoric ה.

17. So I took the cup, &c.] It is not to be imagined, that Jeremiah went round in person to all the nations and kings here enumerated; But either that he did so in a vision; or else that he actually did what is figuratively designed, that is, he publicly announced the judgments of God severally against them, as we find in the Chapters mentioned in Note on ver. 13.---Another thing to be observed is, that the words of JEHOVAH are broken off at the end of ver. 16. and not resumed till the latter part of ver. 26. where JEHOVAH again continues his directions thus, "and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them." All the intermediate part contains an account of Jeremiah's executing the divine commission, and is to be included within a parenthesis. It is most likely that this narrative was written, either by the prophet himself, or dictated to him by Baruch his amanuensis, after the destruction of Jerusalem, when a compilation was made of all his prophecies; which supposition will account for the words כִּי־יִזְכֹּר, "as at this day," found at the close of the next verse.

18.---and to the princes thereof---] In Van der Hooght's edition the conjunction ו is omitted before אֶת־שָׂרֵיָהּ; but it is expressed in all the ancient versions, and in 117 MSS. and twelve editions.

Ibid.---and an astonishment, and a hissing---] Here again the con-

junction is omitted before **לשמו** and **לשרקו** ; but five, perhaps six, MSS. read it before **לשמו**, and five, perhaps seven, MSS., and two editions, before **לשרקו** or **לשריקו**. The LXX., Syr. and Vulg. express it in both places.

Ibid.---and a curse---] The LXX. and Syr. omit **ולקללו**. The LXX. also omit **ביום הזה**.

19.---and to all the intermingled people---] These words I join with the preceding, and understand thereby all the foreigners resident in Egypt, who had by intermarriages formed connexions with the Egyptians. St Jerome is of the same opinion. In Exod. xii. 38. we read of **ערב**, "a mixed multitude," distinct from the children of Israel, that went up with them out of Egypt. And again, Neh. xiii. 3. it is evident, that **ערב** means all those that were not of the seed of Israel, but who had settled among them. See Ezek. xxx. 5. Arabia, properly so called, is specified afterwards, ver. 24.

20.---the land of Uz---] This was the country of Job ; but concerning its situation different opinions are holden. It was most probably on the confines of Idumea, if not a part of it. The daughter of Edom is said to dwell in the land of Uz ; Lam. iv. 21. Uz was the son of Nahor, Abraham's brother ; Gen. xxii. 21.

Ibid.---the remnant of Ashdod.] Or Azotus, which had been very much ruined by two sieges in which it was taken, the one by Tartan the Assyrian general, mentioned Isai. xx. 1. the other by Psammitichus king of Egypt, who retook it after the longest siege that had ever been known in those times. Herodot. Lib. ii. c. 157.---Let it be remembered that by *kings* are meant only the Sovereigns and Civil Rulers of a country, whatever were the form of government established in it.---The prophecy respecting the Philistines is contained in Ch. xlvii.

21. To Edom---] The LXX., Syr. and Vulg. with seven MSS., read the **ו** at the beginning of this verse. For the prophecies concerning Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites, see Ch. xlviii. xlix. 1, 7.

22.---the region which is by the sea side] So the margin of our English Bibles represents **האֵי אשר בעבר הים**. And that **אֵי** does not always signify *an island* properly so called, see note on Ch. ii. 10. **בעבר** signifies *on the side* of a river, or of the sea, see Josh. v. 1. and note on Ch. xxii. 20. I take the same district to be here meant, as is called **חוף הים**, Ezek. xxv, 16. and **אֵי כַּסְתֹּר**, Ch. xlvii. 4. See note on this latter place.

23. And to Dedan] Forty two MSS., eight editions, and all the ancient versions express the conjunction **ו** at the beginning of this verse.---Dedan was descended from Abraham by Keturah ; Gen. xxv. 3. It was probably he that founded the city Dedan ; which however in process of time seems to have been annexed to Edom. See Ch. xlix. 8. Ezek. xxv. 13.

Ibid.---Tema---] Tema was one of the sons of Ishmael ; Gen. xxv. 15. and a city or district called after him was situate near the mountains which separate Arabia from Chaldea. Ancient Univ. Hist. Vol. VII. B. iv. Ch. 8. p. 230. folio.

Ibid.—Buz—] Buz was the brother of Uz; Gen. xxi. 21. and settled most probably in his neighbourhood. Elihu, the most discreet of Job's friends, was a Buzite. Job xxxii. 2.

Ibid.—and to all that have their coast insulated.] These I suppose to be the inhabitants of the peninsula of Arabia, especially those situate towards the bottom or narrow part of it. See note on Ch. ix. 26.

24. And to all the kings of Arabia—] The whole country, to which we give the general name of Arabia, seems to have been thrown in Scripture into two great divisions, one of which is called properly עֲרַבָּה, *Arabah*, the other קֶדֶם, *Kedem*, according to their respective situations; *Arabah* signifying *the West*, as *Kedem* does *the East*. Each of these had their subdivisions; the first comprehending that which Geographers have distinguished by the name of Arabia Petræa, and also perhaps those parts along the western coast of the Red Sea, bordering upon Egypt, which I conceive to have been the residence of the Cushites (Note on Ch. xiii. 23.) and the inhabitants of which are called Arabians to this day. The other part, called Kedem, comprehended Arabia Felix and Arabia Deserta; the former of which the Scriptures seem to have distinguished by the name of קְצוּצֵי-פֶאֶה, “those that have their coast insulated,” mentioned in the preceding verse; and the latter, I suppose, are intended in this verse by the following words, חֲשֻכְנִים בְּמִדְבַּר הָעֲרָב, “the mingled race of those that dwell in the desert,” meaning such as inhabited the great desert country lying between Mesopotamia and Palestine. These may have been called חֲשֻכְנִים, from the sense of the verb עָרַב, to *mix* or *mingle together*; either from their manner of inhabiting the desert promiscuously and in common, without any fixed property or abode, but settling for a time where they found pasture, and then removing with their flocks to another place; (See Strabo Lib. xvi. p. 747. Plin. Nat. Hist. Lib. vi. Sect. 32.) or else, which I rather think, from their being made up of people of different descents; concerning whom see what will be said in a note on Ch. xlix. 28.

25.—Zimri---] Zimran was one of the sons of Abraham by Keturah; all of whom he sent away eastward of Canaan to settle in the east country, or the land of Kedem. Gen. xxv. 2, 6. It is probable that the people of Zimri were the descendants of Zimran, and were the same that Pliny mentions among the inhabitants of Arabia by the name of *Zamareni*. Nat. Hist. Lib. vi. sect. 32.

Ibid.—Elam---] See the prophecy concerning Elam, Ch. xlix. 34. and what will be said in the notes there.

Ibid.—the kings of Media] Whether the Medes made any opposition to the conquest of Elam by the king of Babylon, and were unsuccessful; or whether this relates to the disturbance occasioned by the Babylonian invasion of the frontiers of Media, as related in Xenophon's *Cyropædia*, Lib. ii. or whether to any other calamity which befel that kingdom during their wars with the Babylonian monarchs, of which history has given no account, as far as I know; is uncertain.

26.—the kings of the north, those that are near, and those that are

afar off] By the kings of the north that were near, the kings of Syria are probably meant. See Ch. xlix. 23. Those that are afar off may mean the Hyrcanians and Bactrians, who are reckoned in Xenophon's *Cyropædia*, Lib. i. among them that were subjected or oppressed by the king of Babylon; and perhaps others besides of the neighbouring nations that were compelled to submit to the Babylonian yoke. All these lay to the north of Judea, and at a great distance.

Ibid.---all the kingdoms of the earth, which are upon the face of the ground] This must be understood with a limitation to that part of the continent which the Jews had any correspondence or acquaintance with; just as *Παρά τὴν οὐρανὴν* stands for the whole Roman empire, Luke ii. 1. The ambition of a prince like Nebuchadnezzar, who aimed at universal monarchy, could not help occasioning great distress and confusion, both among those who felt, and among those who dreaded the power of his arms.

Ibid.---and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them] Here the speech of JEHOVAH is resumed, which was broken off at the end of ver. 16.---That *Sheshach* means Babylon, appears clearly from Ch. li. 41. But among the reasons that have been assigned for this name, I have met with none that I think satisfactory. *שָׁכַח* signifies to *subside* and *sink down*; hence *שָׁכַח* may signify *that which subsides and sinks down*; and may perhaps allude to the low situation of Babylon, which did not derive its strength from being built, like many other great cities, upon the heights of a rock, but stood upon a large flat or plain, cowering, as it were, amidst the waters that surrounded it, and by which it was rendered in some parts inaccessible to an enemy. Accordingly she is said, Ch. li. 13. to "dwell upon many waters."

30. Against all the inhabitants of the earth.] Two MSS. both of them respectable ones, for *עַל כָּל* read *עַל כָּל*.

31.---the whole race of the wicked---] *כָּל-בָּשָׂר* of itself is sometimes put for "all mankind;" but Job xii. 10. we read *כָּל-בָּשָׂר אִישׁ* "all flesh of man," that is, "the whole race of man;" and in like manner I conceive *כָּל-בָּשָׂר רָשָׁעִים*, should be joined with *כָּל-בָּשָׂר*, and the whole rendered together, "the whole race of the wicked."

34. And roll yourselves in ashes] *בְּאָפֶר* must here be understood as it is expressed Ch. vi. 26. Ezek. xxvii. 30.

Ibid. And ye shall fall like a precious vessel.] That is, Ye who are esteemed above the common rank shall undergo the fate of a precious vessel, made of a chrystal or gem, which being let fall is shattered to pieces; its original value being no security against such disasters.---I cannot however help thinking, that possibly for *חֲמֹרֶת* the original reading may have been *חֲמֹרֶת*, of *clay*, or *earth*. To be "dashed in pieces like a potter's vessel" denotes irreparable ruin. Ps. ii. 9.

38. By means of the fierceness of the oppressor] Ten MSS. and one ancient edition with the LXX. and Chald. for *חֲרִיב חֲרִיב* read *חֲרִיב חֲרִיב*. The Syr. seems to have read *חֲרִיב חֲרִיב* instead of *חֲרִיב חֲרִיב*. But the reading of the text at present seems preferable; for *חֲרִיב חֲרִיב* "the op-

pressor" be referred to "the lion," which JEHOVAH is compared to, then דריון I conceive will be much more suitable than דורב.

CHAP. XXVI.

THE preceding Chapter is dated in the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim, but ascribed with probability to the early part of that year. This Chapter is dated in the beginning of the same reign. Hence it has been concluded, that this must have preceded the former in order of time. But the conclusion will not hold, if we consider that Ch. xxviii. 1. the beginning of Zedekiah's reign is expressly declared to mean the fourth year and the fifth month. The same therefore may be the case here, and may thus be accounted for. In a reign which lasted eleven years, as did both Jehoiakim's and Zedekiah's, the word ראשית, "the beginning" or "early part," need not be restrained to the first year of it; but supposing the whole divided into three equal parts, a beginning, a middle, and an end, the first of these may comprehend and denote the three first years, and some part of the fourth also. This Chapter therefore may on such a supposition be allowed to stand next to the foregoing one.

JEREMIAH is directed to foretel the destruction of the temple and city of Jerusalem, without a speedy repentance and reformation; v. 1—6. On this account he is apprehended and accused before the council of a capital offence; he enters upon his defence, and is acquitted; his advocates urging the precedent of Micah in the reign of Hezekiah; v. 7—19. But from a contrary precedent it appears his life would have been in great danger, had he not met with a powerful protector.

2.—unto all the cities of Judah] Here it is evident that ערי "cities" are put for their inhabitants; and we may conjecture from hence that this transaction passed at one of the great festivals, when the people of Judah were assembled out of all their cities to worship at Jerusalem.

5---rising up early---] Thirteen MSS. and the oldest Edition of the Heb. Bible read **רש** without the **י** prefixed; nor does the conjunction appear in the LXX. Chald. or Vulgate versions.

Ibid.---even as ye have not hearkened] The particle **י** is thus used 1 Sam. xii. 15. Job v. 7. &c.

6---like Shiloh----- See Ch. vii. 12, 14.

Ibid.---this city] Instead of **הזאת** the Masoretes read **זאת** which is the reading also of thirty five MSS. some of them the most ancient, and three editions.

7---the prophets---] The prophets, as is manifest from many passages in Scripture, were an order of men among the Jews devoted to sacred literature, and qualified by their attainments in religious knowledge to advise and instruct the people, who came to consult them in cases of doubt and difficulty. They appear to have been trained in seminaries and schools under the direction of some prophet eminent for wisdom and piety; as those mentioned 1 Sam. xix. 20. were under Samuel, and

those 2 Kings ii. 3. vi. 1. under Elijah and Elisha. That they were numerous, appears from this circumstance, that when Jezebel slew all the prophets of JEHOVAH whom she could meet with, Obadaiah hid an hundred of them, and saved their lives : 1 Kings xviii. 4. And afterwards there appeared no less than four hundred of them prophesying in that character before Ahab and Jehoshaphat, 1 Kings xxii. 6. It is not to be supposed, that these were all of them, or at all times, divinely inspired, but ordinarily gave their advice as men versed in the law and in the other Scriptures. Sometimes however they were enabled to answer those that consulted them by immediate revelation from God. And out of this body God generally perhaps chose those, whom he sent as his ambassadors and messengers extraordinary, to notify the designs of his providence, and to warn his people to repent and turn from the ways which displeased him. I say, *generally*, but not *always*; for Amos expressly says of himself, that he was "neither a prophet," meaning by profession, "nor a prophet's son," one bred up in the schools of the prophets; but an illiterate herdsman, when JEHOVAH sent him to prophesy unto Israel. Amos vii. 14. But neither did the sacredness of their character secure them from bearing a part in the general corruption of the times; on the contrary, Jeremiah in particular complains bitterly of them for having prostituted themselves to the worst of purposes, deceiving the people by false pretences, and being greatly instrumental in promoting the cause of impiety and wickedness. See Ch. v. 31. xiv. 13, 14. xxiii. 14, &c. xxviii. 15. xxix. 8, 9. &c. &c. See also Ezek. xiii. 2, &c. Micah iii. 5, 11. Zeph. iii. 4. After the total cessation of prophecy, the Scribes, who are often mentioned in the Gospels, seem to have stepped into the place of the prophets, and by their acquired skill in the sacred writings, without any claim to supernatural gifts, to have taught the people, and instructed them in all matters of religious concernment. See Mat. xxiii. 2, 3.

9.---hast thou prophesied---] For נבִּיאָה fifteen MSS. and two editions read נבִּאָה, which is indeed the regular form; but as was observed in note on Ch. xxiii. 39, the verbs quiescent in נ, the 3d radical, often assume the form of those quiescent in ה.

10.---the princes of Judah---] This was no doubt the great court of the Sanhedrim; first instituted Num. xi. 16. and revived by Jehoshaphat, 2 Chron. xix. 8. Before this court we find Baruch afterwards brought to read the roll; Ch. xxxvi. 12, &c.

Ibid.---gate of the house of JEHOVAH] Twenty, perhaps twenty one, MSS. and one edition read שַׁעַר בֵּית יְהוָה; and the Syr. Chald. Arab. and Vulgate render conformably to this reading.

12---unto all the princes, and to all the people] כל is omitted before חֲשׁוּבִים in four MSS. and in the version of the LXX.---We may observe that this verse, compared with ver. 16, 17. seems to savour strongly of a democratical form of government; as if the people in general were appealed to, and had a voice in judicial proceedings.

18.---Micah] For מִיכָיָה the Masoretes, with twenty nine MSS. and four editions, read מִיכָה, conformably to Mic. i. 1. There is ano-

ther similar mistake in this verse in the word **וירושלם**, which in one hundred and two, perhaps 105, MSS. and two editions is written **וירושלם**.

Ibid.---Sion shall be plowed, &c.] See Mic. iii. 12.

20. But there was also a man, &c.] There are three different opinions respecting the words that follow. The first ascribes them to an opposite party, who by a contrary precedent to the foregoing urged the condemnation of Jeremiah. But against this it is objected, that such a transition in the speakers would have had some mark of distinction prefixed. Others suppose that this instance was adduced by the same persons as the former, and with intent to mark the different consequences that had ensued; but that they forbore to draw their inference at large, partly out of a decent respect to the reigning prince, who was chiefly concerned in the transaction; and partly because all their hearers were of themselves sufficiently sensible of the present calamitous state of the kingdom. But this implies a more refined system of manners than was consistent with the practice of the times: besides that the nation was not at that season in circumstances singularly calamitous, whatever might be the case soon after. But the least exceptionable opinion seems to be, that the elders concluded their speeches, ver. 19. and that the writer of the narrative goes on to observe in his own person, that notwithstanding the precedent of Micah, there had been a later precedent in the present reign, which might have operated very unfavourably to the cause of Jeremiah, but for the influence and authority of Abikam the son of Shaphan, which was exerted to save him.

21.---and was afraid---] For **וירא** thirty three MSS. and five editions read **וירא**; which is more right.

22.---adversaries---] It is scarcely probable that **מצרים** should here signify Egypt, as **אל-מצרים** follows immediately after, and the tautology would be intolerable. But either **מצרים** may be the participle in *Hiphil*, and signify "distressers," or perhaps the **מ** may have been repeated from the end of the preceding word, and we should read **צרים** "adversaries," instead of **מצרים**. This is certainly as common a ground of mistake in transcribers as any that occurs, and the pleonasm of the word **אנשים** is a well known Hebrew idiom. So **אנשים אחים** signifies "brethren," Gen. xiii. 8. By "distressers" or "adversaries," words of nearly the same import, may probably be understood persons whose business it was by crimination and solicitation to prevail upon the governors of Egypt to give up the man, who had fled for refuge into their territories. For it is hardly to be supposed that Jehoiakim would have dared to send a party of men into the dominions of a powerful neighbour, to seize by force one that had put himself under the protection of a foreign state; nor would the Egyptians have put up with the insult. But as the king of Egypt was in friendship with Jehoiakim, he may have been prevailed on by the pressing importunity of his agents to suffer them to carry off the obnoxious fugitive.

23.—and cast his dead body into the burying-places of the children of the people] By “the children of the people” are meant the populace of the lowest order, who were buried in a public cemetery, having no distinct sepulchre to themselves, as all persons of rank and character, and especially of so honourable an order as that of the prophets, used to have. But the king’s design was to brand his memory, as far as he could, by such an ignominious treatment of his remains. Maillet, speaking of the Egyptian repositories of the dead, says, that while some “were inclosed in chests, and placed in niches,” others “were put into those tombs without any embalming at all, or such a slight one, that there remains nothing of them in the linen in which they were wrapped but their bones, and those half rotten. It is probable,” continues he, “that each considerable family had one of these burial-places to themselves; that the niches were designed for the bodies of the heads of the family, and that those of their domestics and slaves had no other care taken of them, than the laying them on the ground after having been embalmed, and even without that; which without doubt was also all that was done even to the heads of families of less distinction.” See Harmer’s Observ. Ch. vi. Osb. 59. Should we now suppose, and the supposition is not improbable, that the prophets had an appropriated burying-place of their own, the excluding of Urijah from it, and burying of him promiscuously among the common herd, could be regarded in those days in no better light, than the burying of a person now in the highway would be.

CHAP. XXXV.

ALL the intermediate prophecies from Ch. xxvi. according to the Hebrew arrangement, belong clearly to the reign of Zedekiah; and consequently are posterior to this Chapter and the next, which are dated in the reign of Jehoiakim, together with Ch. xlv. which is closely connected with the latter of these two Chapters. The Rechabites appear to have retired within the walls of Jerusalem upon the hostile approach of Nebuchadnezzar and his army in the fourth year of Jehoiakim. Calmet indeed supposes that it was not till the latter end of Jehoiakim’s reign that the Rechabites were driven into the city for shelter; grounding his opinion upon its being said ver. 11. that they entered it “for fear of the army of the Chaldeans, and for fear of the army of the Syrians,” and comparing this with 2 Kings xxiv. 2. where “JEHOVAH” is said to have “sent bands of Chaldees, and of Syrians, &c. against Judah to destroy it.” But this reasoning will not hold, for first Nebuchadnezzar might have been, and most probably was, joined by the Syrians in his first expedition against Jerusalem, after the defeat of the Egyptians at Carchemish, which brought on the submission of all Syria. And secondly, Nebuchadnezzar does not appear to have come in person a second time till after Jehoiakim was at least taken prisoner, and his generals had closely invested Jerusalem. See note on Ch. xxii. 19. But further, the title of Ps. lxx. according to the LXX. speaks of the sons of Jonadab as among the first that were carried into captivity.

Now the first captivity was in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, when Daniel and his companions with several others were transported to Babylon. If any stress then is to be laid upon this title, the date of this prophecy is decided. I pretend not indeed to say of what authority the titles in general are; nor is this recognised in the Hebrew copies. But its being found in all the copies of the LXX. affords reason to conclude, that there was such a tradition at least concerning the sons of Jonadab, when this version of the Psalms was made.

Jeremiah is sent unto the Rechabites upon their coming to Jerusalem, and for a trial of their obedience offers them wine to drink. They refuse it, and object the express prohibition of their father, v. 1—11. The Jews are hereupon upbraided with their disobedience to the divine commands, and menaced with vengeance, v. 12—17. A blessing is promised to the Rechabites for their dutiful behaviour, v. 18, 19.

2.—the house of the Rechabites—] The Rechabites, as may be collected from ver. 7. were not of the children of Israel, but strangers of another race that dwelt among them. From 1 Chron. ii. 55. they appear to have been *Kenites*, a people originally settled in that part of Arabia Petræa, which was called the land of Midian; and most probably the descendents of Jethro, the father in law of Moses, or of Hobab, (whom some look upon to have been Jethro's son; others Jethro himself) who is called a Kenite, and said to have severed himself from the rest of his countrymen, and to have dwelt among the people of Israel. Compare Numb. x. 29—32. with Judg. i. 16. iv. 11. At what time Rechab lived, who gave his name to the family, is not certain, nor whether he was the immediate father, or the remote ancestor of Jonadab; for the word *son* often denotes nothing more than a lineal descendent. But it is most likely, that the Jonadab here spoken of, as having dictated a rule of living to the Rechabites, was the same person of whom mention is made 2 Kings x. 15. For that this latter was a man of considerable eminence is manifest from the respect shewn him by Jehu; and his being taken along with him by that prince to witness his zeal for the honour of the true God, shews him to have been a man of right and religious principles. The institutions he left with his posterity bespeak a principal concern for the purity of their morals, which he might rightly suppose would be less liable to be corrupted, whilst they adhered to the simplicity of their ancient usages, than if they adopted the refinements of modern luxury. He therefore enjoined them not only to abstain from the use of wine, but to live, as the patriarchs did of old, and as many of their countrymen, the Scenite Arabs, continue to do at this day, without any fixed habitations or possessions, far from the society of cities, in the open country, feeding their flocks, and maintaining themselves by the produce of them.

4.—a man of God—] This name usually imports a *prophet* one who had been employed upon a divine commission; nor do I ever find it used in any other sense. Otherwise I might have been induced to think, that it here denoted an officer in waiting upon the magistrates or rulers, (so *נְזִירֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ* is sometimes used, as also *נְזִירֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ* for those in

attendance upon a great man's person ; see 1 Kings x. 8.) and entitled to a chamber in the temple in right of his office ; his chamber being said to be next to that, in which the princes, or Sanhedrim, used to assemble.

6. But they said—] One MS. of note and antiquity adds מלי, "unto me."

14. The words of Jonadab - - - have been punctually performed] There is no doubt but this is the sense of the words here made use of. There is however a peculiarity in the construction that deserves notice. Two anomalies are generally supposed, the nominative case with a preposition before it, את-דברי ; and the singular verb דוק in agreement with a plural subject. But I much question whether this is the case ; and I submit whether it is not more probable, that the idiom consists in the passive verb being used in the 3d person singular impersonally, with an accusative after it according to the construction of the active verb. "It hath been performed," or, "there hath been a performance of, (or, according to) the words of Jonadab." Other passages of the like form may be accounted for in the same manner. See Ch. xxxvi. 32.

19. There shall be no failure of one in the line of Jonadab, &c.] The meaning of this promise in its full extent seems to be, not only that the race of Jonadab should never fail or be extinct, but that some of the family should ever be found among the worshippers of the true God. For to stand in the presence of a prince implies an attendance in some degree upon his person and service. So the queen of Sheba, speaking of Solomon's court, says, "Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee." 1 Kings x. 8. And therefore to "stand before God" must denote at least the privilege of treading his courts, and of worshipping him among the train of his chosen servants and followers. Some have carried the matter still further, and have supposed that in virtue of this promise the Rechabites were admitted to bear a part in the temple service ; and this opinion seems to have dictated the Vulgate translation of 1 Chron. ii. 55. *Cognationes quoque scribarum habitantium in Jabez, canentes, atque resonantes, et in tabernaculis commorantes. Hi sunt Cinzei, qui venerunt de calore patris domus Rechab.* But besides that there is no other authority for believing that the Levites were set aside from the functions of singers and porters, which belonged exclusively to them, and which in this translation seems to be given to the Kenites, I am of opinion that not only these words, שוכתי תרעתי שמעתי are the proper names of distinct families, but that the same is the case of סופרים also, which should be rendered *Sopharites* instead of *scribes* ; and that the text does not represent them as Rechabites, but as collateral branches descended from Hemath, a common ancestor of those families, and of the house of Rechab. So that the verse may properly be translated thus, "Also the families of Sopharites dwelling in Jabetz, Tirhathites, Shimeathites, Suchathites : these were Kenites, descended from Hemath, an ancestor of the house of Rechab." Should Jabetz have been a city built by an eminent man of that name mentioned 1 Chron.

iv. 9. (which *Kimchi* not unreasonably supposes) this would be another circumstance to distinguish these people from the Rechabites: for it is most natural to conclude, that the Rechabites, who had already found their obedience to their father's commands turn out so much to their honour and advantage, would not have departed from it in this article of dwelling in tents without an apparent necessity.

CHAP. XXXVI.

BY divine appointment Jeremiah causeth Baruch to write all his preceding prophecies on a roll, and to read them to the people on a fast day; v. 1—10. The princes are informed of it, and send for Baruch, who readeth the roll before them; at the contents of which they are greatly alarmed; and advise Jeremiah and Baruch to hide themselves; v. 11. —19. They acquaint the king, who sendeth for the roll, and having heard a part of it read, he cutteth it in pieces, and burneth it; v. 20—26. Jeremiah is commanded to write it anew, and to denounce the judgments of God against king Jehoiakim; v. 27—31. Baruch writeth a new copy with additions; v. 32.

It was the opinion of both Archbishop Usher and Dean Prideaux, that the roll was twice read by Baruch in the temple, and that the first reading was on the tenth day of the seventh month, being the great day of atonement, in the fourth year of king Jehoiakim. But this, I am persuaded, is a mistake; and the reasons urged by the latter of those two learned men in support of his hypothesis are by no means satisfactory and conclusive. He says (*Connexion of Old and New Testament*, Part I. B. i.) that “the reading of the roll in the temple is twice related in this Chapter,” and that “in the first relation it is said to be done in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, and in the second relation it is said to be done in the fifth; which plainly denotes different times.” The conclusion is unquestionable, if the premises were but just. But no such double relation do I see in fact, nor is it any where asserted in this Chapter, that the roll was read in Jehoiakim's fourth year. It is said indeed ver. 1. that the word of JEHOVAH came to Jeremiah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, but not at what time of the year; and we may allow too, that Baruch received his instructions from Jeremiah immediately, concerning both the writing and the reading of the roll. With respect to the latter his instructions were, that he should read the roll on a fast day, when the people of Jerusalem and out of all the cities of Judah were assembled in the house of JEHOVAH. But it is presumed only, and not with much probability neither, that the fast day intended was the tenth day of the seventh month, which in the Old Testament is known only by the name of “the day of atonement;” and had it been designed under another name here, it would methinks at least have been distinguished by prefixing the article *הַ*, as *הַיּוֹם* *בְּיוֹם*, “on the day of THE FAST;” in like manner as in the New Testament, where it is supposed to be spoken of, Acts xxvii. 9. it is stiled *הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה*, THE FAST, by way of eminence, it being the only one enjoined on the Jews by divine authority. It is however simply said

here, **ביום צום**, "on a fast day," which would suit any day, that the people should agree among themselves to observe as such. Accordingly after its being said in general terms, ver. 8. that Baruch did as Jeremiah commanded in regard to reading the roll in the temple, the 9th and 10th verses proceed to specify the particular circumstances of time and place; namely, that it was in the ninth month of the fifth year of king Jehoiakim, on a fast day which all the people of Jerusalem and of all the cities of Judah had appointed, and were met to observe, on account, as it is believed, of the city having been taken by Nebuchadnezzar on that very day, in the preceding year; and in a certain chamber belonging to the house of JEHOVAH, distinctly described, most probably from the window or balcony of it, that looked into the higher court, where the people were gathered together in crowds below; that Baruch read in their hearing the words which Jeremiah had dictated to him. Here then is but one single relation, and as far as appears hitherto, of one single reading only in the audience of the people. Nor is any more proved by the second argument adduced; namely, that "in the first relation Jeremiah is said to be shut up in prison when the roll was read; but in the second relation it plainly appears he was out of prison, for he was then at full liberty to go out of the way and hide himself." Here also the matter labours for want of proof, and the whole proceeds upon a misconstruction of the text. For it is not said, that "he was shut up in prison," when he gave the directions to Baruch, but barely that he was "shut up," or "confined," **עצור**, ver. 5. or taken as it should be in connexion with the context that follows, under some such confinement or restraint, as precluded him from going to the house of JEHOVAH. Now this he might have been in a variety of ways, without being shut up in a prison, a species of persecution which does not otherwise appear to have befallen him about this time. We read indeed, Ch. xxvi. that in the beginning of Jehoiakim's reign, that is, as has been already explained in the introductory note on that Chapter, in the early part of this same fourth year, Jeremiah was arrested and brought to a capital trial before the princes and people for the predictions he had uttered; but he was then acquitted, though not, as may be concluded from the last verse of the Chapter, without difficulty, and by the influence of a powerful friend. It is not improbable however, that though he escaped with his life, he might upon this occasion have received a prohibition, like that which the Sanhedrim gave to the Apostles, Acts iv. 18. v. 40. or might even have been obliged to give security not to enter the temple, or to speak in it by way of prophesying, for a certain time. This would be sufficient to justify the expression made use of; and might even extend to restrain him from going in person to the temple at the time the roll was actually read, though long after the directions were given; and yet not prevent him from hiding himself with Baruch where the king's officers could not find them. Upon the whole I see no good reason for concluding that the roll was read publicly in the temple more than once; nor does Josephus, who speaks of its being read in the ninth month of the fifth year, (Ant. Lib. x. Cap. 6. Edit. Hudson) give the least hint

of its having been done before; which if it had been, I think we might naturally have expected to have been informed, how it was received by those who heard it the first time, as well as by those who heard it the second. From the utter silence on this head the contrary may be presumed, and we may fairly conjecture the case to have been pretty nearly as follows. Towards the latter end of Jehoiakim's fourth year, after Nebuchadnezzar had replaced him on the throne, and had left the city, it is possible that both king and people, freed from former apprehensions began again to indulge their wicked inclinations and fancies; and therefore Jeremiah was ordered to lay before them at once all the evils that still threatened them in future, and from which nothing but speedy repentance and amendment could protect them. In consequence of this charge Jeremiah caused Baruch to write a collection of all his prophecies, and to have them in readiness to read at a fit opportunity. Perhaps the collection was not fully completed before the fifth year was already begun; but the season pitched on as most convenient for reading this tremendous publication was the day, on which the people had assembled themselves to deplore before God the calamity with which he had visited them just a twelvemonth before. Accordingly at that time Baruch read openly in the temple what he had written, and the immediate consequences of such reading are related at large.—I have been more particular in discussing this matter, as thinking it necessary by way of apology or justification of myself, for opposing my opinion to two such very respectable authorities.

7.—they may prostrate themselves in supplication] Literally, "their supplication may fall," which undoubtedly respects the humble posture of the suppliant in presenting it. See again Ch. xxxvii. 20.—In the subsequent part of the verse "the anger and the indignation" is put by metonymy for the effects of it, the heavy judgments which in consequence thereof JEHOVAH denounced against his people.

9.—all the people in Jerusalem, and all the people that came out of the cities of Judah, proclaimed a fast—] This is the natural construction, as the text stands at present, and so the LXX, Chald. and in part the Syr. render. But the Vulgate and our English translators render, "they proclaimed a fast . . . to all the people," as if for **לְכָל הָעָם** they had read **לְכָל הָעָם**, which is indeed found in one MS. But the text, I am persuaded, is right; and meant to indicate that the fast was enjoined by human authority, by the authority of the people themselves, and not of God. See 1 Kings xxi. 12.—The ancient Bodl. MS. No. 1. omits the word **וְהָעָם**, according to which the translation should be, "and all the people of (or, belonging to) the cities of Judah."

10.—in the higher court, at the entrance of the new gate of the house of JEHOVAH—] It may hardly be necessary to observe, that by "the house of JEHOVAH" is meant all that is included within the sacred precincts; not only the sanctuary, or house, properly so called, but all the outbuildings, and the courts around, the inner court of the priests, and the outer court, which was open to all the people. Neither of these courts should be called "the higher" because of the elevation of

the ground; for Josephus expressly tells us (Ant. Lib. viii. c. 3. Ed. Huds.) that the whole was levelled by Solomon with incredible pains, so as to raise the lower parts to the same height with the top of the mountain on which the temple was built. But it has been before suggested in a note on Ch. xx. 2. that **הַיָּעֲלִיּוֹן** "the higher" may have respect to the course of the sun, rising in the east, and going down to the west, and so may denote "the eastern." As therefore the sanctuary stood at the west end of the hill, and the court of the priests before it, surrounded by the court of the people on three sides, that part of the court of the people which was in front of the inner court was most probably that which is here called "the higher court." What strengthens this opinion is, that the gate, which is here called "the new gate," being, no doubt, that which had been lately built by Jotham, is styled "the higher gate of the house of JEHOVAH;" 2 Kings xv. 35. The chamber of Gemariah therefore, in which Baruch took his station, was in the great outer court, either close to, or over the gateway of the eastern gate; so that if he read, as is supposed, from a window or balcony, he would be heard by the concourse of people, that came flocking into the court through that gate.

18:---and I wrote in a book after him] Our English translation is, "and I wrote them with ink in a book." The Syr. Chald. and Vulg. have also agreed in rendering **בִּדְמָה** "with ink;" but the LXX. and Arab, express no such word. Nor can it escape notice, how little to the purpose of the question it was for Baruch to specify the materials with which he wrote. And as to the word, **דָּם**, which is translated "ink" it occurs no where else in the Hebrew in that sense. For my part, I think that **בִּדְמָה** is composed of the preposition **בְּ**, the noun **דָּם**, and the affix pronoun **הִי**. **דָּם** signifies *the sufficiency* or *ability* of a person, or the *full measure* of a thing. And we find **בִּדְמָה** to denote, *in the sufficiency of, or according to the ability, measure, or full proportion and extent* of a person or thing. See **בִּדְמָה**, Ch. xlviii. 30. and **בִּדְמָה**, Ch. li. 58. **בִּדְמָה** also, which is much the same, is used in the like sense. I therefore think that **בִּדְמָה** here denotes "after him," or according to Jeremiah, that is, according to the matter which he supplied or dictated; in other words, I wrote, says Baruch, exactly as he suggested, neither more nor less.

20. And they went in unto the king into the court] They were before, it is said ver. 12. in the king's house, that is, in the exterior precincts of the palace, where were apartments and offices fitted up for the principal officers of state, and for the attendants of the court. But from what is here said it appears, that there was an interior corps of building for the king's personal residence, ranged, as is the fashion of the great houses of the east at this day, round an open court or quadrangle, and containing apartments separately appropriated for summer and winter use.

22.—and there was set before him a hearth with burning coals—] I have rendered **מִזְבֵּחַ** "a hearth" or *fireplace*, without determining it to be a fixed one under a chimney, of which it is said there were none ad-

mitted at Jerusalem by reason of the smoke. Mr Harmer, who gives this circumstance as related by Maimonides, tells us likewise from Dr Russell, that the fires used at Aleppo in the lodging rooms are of *charcoal in pans*; and in like manner from Dr Pococke, that *pans of coals* are the fires used in winter in Egypt. He further adds, that Sir John Chardin in his MS notes supposes the fire that was burning before Jehoiakim was *a pan of coals*; and cites a passage from him, which says in French, "This was just as the great warm themselves in winter in Persia, and particularly in Media, and wherever there is no want of wood. The manner in which they sit will not allow them to be near a chimney: in these places therefore of the east they have great brasiers of lighted coals." Harmer's Observ. Ch. iii. Obs. 24. Now the translation of the Vulgate entirely agrees with this account: *Es posita erat arula coram eo plena pruinis*. For *arula*, a little altar, entirely conveys the idea of a *brasier* or *receiver* of lighted coals, standing upon a tripod, or some such support. Nor do I see any reason why מבערות, or מבערות, may not be understood to signify, *with burning coals*. Again, if for ואת האר נא we read ואת אר, (which is more natural as no mention having been made of a hearth before, there is consequently no occasion for the article ה prefixed to אר,) the Hebrew text will also be found in perfect agreement with the Latin translation, and the English will run thus, "And there was brought, or came, before him a little altar, or moveable hearth, with burning coals." It is, I think a confirmation of what has been offered on this subject that the *arula*, or fire hearth, is said to have approached, or been set before the king, and not the king to sit before it; which would have been a much properer mode of expression, had the hearth been immoveable under a chimney.

23.—three or four sections—] As the book which Jehudi read was "a roll," to render דלתות *leaves* would seem rather to carry an eye to the books of modern times, than to suit that ancient mode of writing. דלת properly signifies *a door that opens and shuts*; and from thence I conjecture that by דלתות may be meant the different sections of these prophecies, which being delivered at different times, and having relation to different subjects, have each a proper beginning and ending of its own. The title of a section and the first hemistich of a poem, is said to be called in Chaldee דלת, as being the introduction or door leading to what follows.

Ibid.—with the scribe's knife—] It is probable that the implements for writing were lying on the table before the king, ready for the scribe's or secretary's use, in case there was any call for writing orders or dispatches. Among these was the knife he used either for restoring the pen, when it became too blunt, or for making erasures.

26.—the king's son—] So all the ancient versions render דומלך, except the Vulgate, which makes it a proper name, *Amelech*, and is followed by our English translators here, though not in a similar instance, 1 Kings xxii. 26. where Joash, "the king's son," according

to our version, but “the son of Amelech,” according to the Vulgate, has a commission given him to execute not unlike the present. Perhaps he may not have been the son of the reigning king, but one of the blood royal, and therefore called the king’s son, as the king was in the place of father or head of the family.

30.—his dead body shall be cast forth—] See Ch. xxii. 19.

32.—and there was a further addition made, &c.] Here I think is another instance of the passive verb in the 3d person singular used impersonally, with an accusative after it, according to the *regimen* of the verb active; נוסף עליהם דברים רבים כחומר ועור. See what has been before said on the subject of this idiom in the note on Ch. xxxv. 14.

CHAP. XLV.

THIS Chapter, though placed at such a considerable distance from the foregoing, is simply an appendage of it. Baruch, as we there learn, had been employed by Jeremiah as his Amanuensis to write a collection of all those dreadful threatenings which God had denounced by his mouth. This seems to have affected the poor man’s spirits, and to have alarmed his fears to such a degree, that God thought proper to reassure him by letting him know, that though amidst the general calamities of his country he ought not to look for any mighty matters for himself, yet in consideration of his services his own life should be preserved to him by an especial providence in all places whither it might be his lot to go.

1.—after he had written—] בכתבו—This seems to indicate that the exact time of this prophecy was between the writing and the publication of the roll. And perhaps if Baruch had not received such special assurances of protection, he might not have had resolution enough to follow the prophet’s further directions, and to have read first before all the people, and afterwards before the princes, what he had written.

5.—I will give thee thy life as spoil] This is a proverbial expression found not only here, but also Ch. xxi. 9. xxxviii. 2. xxxix. 18. and may be thus explained. What comes to a man in the way of spoil, being unlooked for gain, may be considered as an extraordinary instance of good luck, as it is called. Accordingly the Psalmist says, “I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.” Ps. cxix. 162. And therefore when it is said, “a man’s life shall be given him as spoil,” the meaning is, that his life shall be saved under such circumstances, that he shall have reason to look upon himself as extremely fortunate, or to speak more properly, as indebted to the favour of divine providence for a singular and extraordinary benefit.

THE prophecies being all concluded, which were delivered in the reign of Jehoiakim, excepting such as relate to the heathen nations, which were probably reserved apart from the rest by special design; the next in order are those which belong to the former or peaceable part of Zedekiah's reign, before he renounced his allegiance to the king of Babylon; and of these the following appears to be the most proper arrangement. Ch. xxiv, xxix, xxx, xxxi, xxvii, xxviii.

CHAP. XXIV.

WE cannot be mistaken in placing this Chapter at the very beginning of Zedekiah's reign, within the first year at least, since the vision is dated from after the carrying away of Jeconiah and the people with him into captivity, as from an event which happened but a little before.

Under the type of good and bad figs, God representeth to Jeremiah the different manner in which he should deal with the people that were already gone into captivity, and with Zedekiah and his subjects that were left behind; shewing his favour and kindness to the former in their restoration and re-establishment; but pursuing the latter with unrelenting judgments unto utter destruction.

1.—two baskets---] שני דוראי --- שני דוראי is the dual number of דור, in which the *Aleph* is inserted to express the *Pathach*.

Ibid.—offered according to law---] מוקריב --- מוקריב, *ordained, appointed*; they were brought for an offering of first-fruits, as the law had directed.

Ibid.—and the artificers, and the armourers---] דורש is a general name for any handicraftsman, whether working in wood, or in metal; but מסגר, which comes from סגר, to *shut in*, or *inclose*, I am inclined to think, means properly *the armourers*, who made the coats of mail, which inclosed the body. And it is reasonable to presume, that the king of Babylon would be solicitous to carry all these off, with intent not only to employ them in his own service, but to prevent the Jews, who were left behind, from furnishing themselves with arms, in case of a revolt.

2.—like the figs of the early sort---] Dr Shaw speaks of three sorts of figs: the first of which he calls the *boccore* (being those here spoken of) which come to maturity towards the middle or latter end of June; the second the *kermex*, or summer fig, which ripens seldom before August; and the third, which he calls the winter fig. This is usually of a much longer shape and darker complexion than the *kermex*, hanging and ripening upon the tree even after the leaves are shed; and, provided the winter proves temperate, is gathered as a delicious morsel in the spring. Shaw's Travels, p. 370. fol. The Dr thinks that the latter sort were those, which our Saviour expected to have found on the

figtree at the time of the Passover in March. Matt. xxi. 19. Mark xi. 13.

5.---in a favourable manner.---See note on Ch. xiv. 11. לטובה is to be joined, not with the verb שלחתי, as our English translation seems to indicate, but with מכיר.

8.---So will I make Zedekiah, &c.] So אתן should be rendered here, as Ch. xxix. 17.

Ibid.---in this land---] For בעיר חזאת one MS. reads בעיר חזאת "in this city;" and the Syr. and Vulgate adopt this reading; and so does the Alexandrian Edition of the LXX. But the other editions of the LXX. render, κατὰ τὴν πόλιν, according to the received reading of the text.

Ibid.---in the land of Egypt---] See Ch. xlix. 12---14.

9.---to vexation afflictively.---With respect to לזערה "to vexation," see Note on Ch. xv. 4. In the Syr. Chald. and Vulg. a conjunction is prefixed to לרעה, and one MS. reads ולרעה; in which case לזערה ולרעה, "to vexation and to affliction," might not improperly be rendered as an *Hendiadys*, "to afflictive vexation." But לרעה is probably right, and may stand opposed to לטובה, ver. 5, 6. and as one denotes a disposition to favour and befriend, the other may signify a disposition to harm and afflict; in which case לרעה may be rendered "afflictively," or, with an unfriendly and afflictive view.

Ibid.---and a taunt.---] The ancient versions seem very properly all of them to have prefixed the ו to לשנינה. Twenty five MSS. and two Editions read ולשנינה; and in three MSS. a letter is erased before the ל.

10.---and the famine.---] Seventeen, perhaps eighteen, MSS. and one Edition read ואת-חרעב; and the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. likewise prefix the conjunction.

CHAP. XXIX.

THERE is no person that can read this chapter with attention, without being sensible of an embarrassment and incoherence in particular parts of it, which leaves a suspicion of some capital defect either in the text or its arrangement. Happily the LXX are found to step in here to our relief, by evidencing a transposition of ver. 15, which they have placed, where undoubtedly it ought to stand, immediately before v. 21. This emendation I have adopted, as by it a due order and connection is restored, both in the place from whence the verse is removed, and in that to which it is transferred. A sufficient proof of its authenticity. That transpositions of this kind have taken place in various parts of S. S. through the inadvertency of transcribers, is notorious; see Bp. Lowth's notes on Isa. vii. 8, 9. xxxviii. 4. 5. The case here may possibly have been, that the transcriber's eye was caught by the same word, with which v. 16. begins, at the beginning of the other verse a little below, which led him to transcribe the whole verse. Then finding his mistake, re-

ther than deface his MS. he may have chosen to pass it over without notice, or may have added a mark of correction in the margin, which was neglected by future Copyists. But there is still another difficulty in this chapter to be accounted for, which is, that it undeniably contains the substance of two letters written at different times, as is evident from comparing ver. 28. with ver. 4. 5. although the title at the beginning announces but one, and there is no mark of distinction to be found afterwards. The distinction however is certainly to be made at the end of ver. 20. For in the first letter the prophet exhorts the captives to accommodate themselves to their present circumstances, under an assurance that their captivity would last to the end of seventy years; after which period and not before, God would visit and restore them. And to prevent their listening to any false suggestions that might flatter them with hopes of a speedier return, he informs them of what would happen to their brethren that were left behind at Jerusalem, for whom a harder fate was reserved than for those that had been carried away. After this, finding as it should seem, upon the return of the messengers, the little credit his first message had met with, he sends a second to the same persons denouncing the divine judgments against three of their false prophets, by whose influence chiefly the people had been prevented from hearkening to his good advice.

2.—and the princes—] Six MSS. and one Edition read וְשָׂרִי, and the conjunction is prefixed in all the ancient versions, except the Chaldee.

5.—the fruit of them—] Here instead of פֶּרִיָּן the true reading is probably פֶּרִיָּהוֹן as at ver. 28. and it is so found in one ancient MS. of good note.

8.—your dealers in dreams, whom ye cause to dream.] As this word חֲלֹמִים is used for persons that dream, Ch. xxvii. 9. it ought likewise to be taken in the same sense here. These dreamers might be said to be made, or encouraged, to dream, by the easy credit given to their impostures, and the reputation and respect they thereby acquired.

It may however be observed, that this verb חָלַם no where else occurs in *Hiphil*; and all the ancient versions have read חֲלֹמִים אַתֶּם, for they render unanimously, “your dreams, which ye dream.” But as for the reason above assigned I am persuaded, that חֲלֹמִים signifies not “your dreams,” but “your dreamers,” so I cannot but suspect a latent corruption of the Text, and that for חֲלֹמִים אַתֶּם מִחֲלֹמִים, the true reading originally was, חֲלֹמִים אֲתֹכֶם, “who dream among you.” It is obvious, how much better this suits with the context; “Hearken not to your dreamers who dream among you,” being in perfect correspondency with what goes before, “Let not your prophets that are in the midst of you nor your diviners deceive you.” And as to the manner of the mistake, consider only, that if it be a mistake, it was most probably made before the ם final began to be in use; in which case a transcriber might easily mistake אֲתֹכֶם for אַתֶּם; and that change once made, the latter ם would naturally be prefixed to the following word, since no

such word as **אחזמ** could possibly be made out.—This emendation however depending so much upon conjecture, I have not followed it in the version, but submit it to further consideration.

9. I have not sent them] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. here suppose the conjunction prefixed to **לֹא-שְׁלַחְתִּים**; but it is not found so in any of the collated MSS.

10.—when seventy years have been completed] **לפי** properly signifies *at the mouth*; and as the *mouth* of a river metaphorically denotes the extremity of its course, where it discharges its waters into the sea; so by a further metaphor drawn from hence, **לפי** seems to denote being *at the full end* of a certain period or limited course of time, where it is just going to lose itself in, and mix with the ocean of eternity.—Here therefore we are to understand that “at the very instant of, or immediately upon, the completion of seventy years,” the restoration of the Jews should take place. See note on Ch. xxv. 12.

11.—to make your latter end even an object of hope] See Ch. xxxi. 17.

13.—ye shall have sought me] Twenty one MSS. and two of the oldest Editions read at large **חזרו שוני**.

14.—I will reverse your captivity—] For **שביתכם**, which is the common reading of the text in this place, the Masora substitutes **שבותכם**, with the concurrence of twenty six MSS. and five Editions. This I take to be right; for it appears to me that **שבירה** or *in regimine* **שבית**, properly signifies *captive persons*, but **שבות**, *the state and condition of captivity*; and that **שבות ושבתי** is to be rendered, “And I will reverse, alter, or put an end to captivity; the same divine providence which first brought such a state upon a people, causing it to *go away again*, or *return* from them.—But it is not easy to discover upon what principle the Masoretes proceeded, when having here changed **שביתכם** into **שבותכם**, they contrariwise altered **שבותנו** into **שביתנו**, Ps. cxxvi. 4. and again **שבותם** into **שביתם**, Zeph. ii. 7. although the reason of the case seems exactly alike in all; and what is more singular still, having first changed **שבותהן** into **שביתהן**, Ezek. xvi. 53. in the very same verse, and where there can be no doubt but that the very same thing is intended, they have twice changed the text from **שבית** into **שבות**; and have moreover substituted **שביתך** instead of **שביתך**, where notwithstanding it appears both from the sense of the passage, and the concurrent testimony of all the ancient versions, that neither the one nor the other is right, but that the true reading must have been, **ושבתי שבותך**.

16. But thus hath JEHOVAH spoken---] Though **כי** is here rendered *But*, it properly signifies *FOR*, as assigning a second reason for not crediting the false prophets, who, as it should seem, had promised the captives not only a speedy return, but a peaceful re-establishment in their own land. In confutation of the latter part, the people are shewn the many and grievous calamities, which would fall upon their brethren that were left there. And hence in the conclusion the prophet derives a fresh argument to those of the captivity for composing them-

selves to that quietness and patience which he had recommended, considering the comparatively easier lot which Providence had assigned to them.

Ibid.---upon the throne---] For לֹא sixteen MSS. and two Editions read more properly על. In four more MSS. א is upon a rasure.

17.---and the famine---] Twenty two MSS. and three Editions read ואחֲזִירֶעָב; and the Syr. Chald. and Vulg. also prefix the conjunction.

18.---and with famine---] Here also thirteen MSS. perhaps fifteen, and one Edition read וּבִרְעָב, with the Syr. Chald. Vulg. and Theodotion.

Ibid.---to vexation---] See Note on Ch. xv. 4.

19.---even as ye have not hearkened---] See Note on Ch. xxvi. 5.

20.---It seems not improbable, that after this verse, and before ver. 15. which is here restored, some words may have been dropped, which served for a title to the subsequent letter; perhaps these that follow; דְּבָרֵי הַסֵּפֶר יִרְמִיָּה הַנָּבִיא אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח שְׁנֵית מִירוּשָׁלַם בְּבִלְתָּ וְאֵלֶּה ---“ And these are the words of the letter of Jeremiah the prophet, which he sent a second time from Jerusalem to Babylon.” Compare these words with the preceding.

22.---roasted in the fire---] In all probability they were treated in the same manner, as was intended for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Dan. iii. 20, 21.

23.---have committed adultery with their neighbours wives---] The Jewish Rabbins, as Grotius here observes, have a traditionary notion, that these were the two elders, who attempted the chastity of Susannah; the story of which they think to be true in part, though not altogether such as it is represented in the Greek.

Ibid.---for I know and am a witness] That is, “for I am not an inattentive witness of such enormities.” Twenty two, perhaps twenty three, MSS. and five Editions read with the Masora דְּיִידֵעַ instead of דְּוִידֵעַ; and eight more MSS. read דְּיִידֵעַ, sinking the ו.

24.---the Nehelamite---] In the margin of our Bibles הַנְּחֵלָמִי is rendered, “dreamer.” But the termination speaks it to be a patronymic. The Chald. renders, דִּמְן חֵלֵם; and we find such a place as *Helam* mentioned 2 Sam. x. 16, 17. Jerome interprets it, *de loco Neelami*.

Ibid.---shalt thou speak---] The charge is here addressed to the prophets.

26.---hath made thee priest in the room of Jehoiada] Seraiah is said to have been the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, when Jerusalem was taken, Ch. lii. 24. Who then was Jehoiada? Perhaps he was one that had been superseded in his office of second priest for being remiss in his duty; and therefore Zephaniah may have been here reminded of him, by way of intimation, that as they had been both appointed for the same purposes, so Zephaniah might expect the same fate.

as his predecessor, if he copied the example of his negligence. The second priest officiated as substitute of the High-priest, in case of absence or indisposition, and perhaps was always invested with subordinate authority.

Ibid.---and that thou shouldest commit] וְנִתְחַוֵּר---Ten MSS. and one Edition omit the paragogic וְ. Perhaps however we ought rather to read וְנִתְחַוֵּר, “and that ye should commit, &c.”

Ibid.---to the house of correction, and to close confinement] For the first of these words חֲמֻסָּה see Ch. xx. 2. where we find Jeremiah to have met with this treatment from Pashur, one of the priests, and captain of the temple. With respect to the second word חֲצִינָק, it occurs no where else in the Hebrew, but in Arabic حَضَنَ signifies *arctum esse*. See Grotius in locum.

28. The term is long---] אֶרְכָּה, or אֶרְכָּא Dan. iv. 24. signifies *a prolongation or lengthening of a term*.

32.---prevarication---] סָרַח properly signifies *a declining* or turning aside from the strait path, the path of truth and right. Here, and Ch. xxviii. 16. it means the presumption of uttering as a revelation from God what a man knew to be not so.

CHAP. XXX. AND XXXI.

THERE are many prophecies in various parts of the Old Testament, which announce the future restoration of Israel to their own land, and the complete re-establishment of both their civil and religious constitution in the latter days, meaning the times of the Gospel dispensation. These two Chapters contain a prophecy of this kind, which must necessarily be referred to those times, because it points out circumstances which certainly were not fulfilled at the return of the Jews from the Babylonish captivity, nor have hitherto had their completion. For the people that returned from Babylon were the people of Judah only, who had been carried away captive by Nebuchadnezzar; but here it is foretold, that not the captivity of Judah only should be restored, but the captivity of Israel also, meaning those ten tribes, that were carried away before by Shalmaneser king of Assyria, and who still remain in their several dispersions, having never returned, in a national capacity at least, to their own land, whatever some few individuals have done. But the terms of the prophecy intitle us to expect, not an obscure and partial, but a complete and universal restoration, when God will manifest himself, as formerly, the God and patron of all the families of Israel, and not of a few only. Again, it is promised, that after this restoration they should no more fall under the dominion of foreigners, but be governed by princes and magistrates of their own nation, independent of any but God and David their king. But this was not the case with the Jews that returned from Babylon. They then indeed had a leader, Zerubbabel, one of their own nation, and also of the family of David. But both the nation and their leader continued still in a state

of vassalage and the most servile dependence upon the Persian monarchy. And when the Grecian monarchy succeeded, they changed their masters only, but not their condition; till at length under the Asmonæan princes they had for a while an independent government of their own, but without any title to the name of David. At last they fell under the Roman yoke, since which time their situation has been such, as not to afford the least ground to pretend, that the promised restoration has yet taken place. It remains therefore to be brought about in future under the reign of the Messiah, emphatically distinguished by the name of David; when every particular circumstance predicted concerning it will, no doubt, be verified by a distinct and unequivocal accomplishment.

There is no particular date annexed to this prophecy, whereby to ascertain the precise time of its delivery. But it may not unreasonably be presumed to have followed immediately after the preceding one, in which the restoration of the people from their Babylonish captivity is in direct terms foretold. From hence the transition is natural and easy to the more glorious and general restoration, that was to take place in a more distant period, and was designed for the ultimate object of the national hopes and expectations. Both events are frequently thus connected together in the prophetic writings, and perhaps with this design, that when that which was nearest at hand should be accomplished, it might afford the strongest and most satisfactory kind of evidence, that the latter, how remote soever its period, would in like manner be brought about by the interposition of providence in its due season.

But though this prophecy relates wholly to one single subject, it seems naturally to divide itself into three distinct parts. The first part after a short preface, in which the prophet is required to commit to writing the matters revealed to him, commences with representing in a style of awe and energy the consternation and distress, which in some future day of visitation should fall upon all nations, preparatory to the scene of Jacob's deliverance; v. 5.—9. Israel is encouraged to confide in the divine assurances of restoration and protection, v. 10. 11. He is prepared previously to expect a severe chastisement for the multitude of his sins, but consoled with the prospect of a happy termination, v. 12—17. This is followed by an enumeration at large of the blessings and privileges to which the Jews should be restored upon their readmission into God's favour; v. 18—22. Again however it is declared, that the anger of JEHOVAH would not subside till his purposed vengeance against the wicked should have been fully executed, and then, but not till then, an entire reconciliation would take place between him and all the families of Israel; v. 23.—Ch. xxxi. 1.

The second part of this prophecy begins Ch. xxxi. 2. and is marked by a sudden transition to a distant period of time, represented in a vision, and embellished with a variety of beautiful scenes and images. God announces the renewal of his ancient love for Israel, and promises them in consequence thereof a speedy restoration of their former privileges.

and happiness, v. 2—5. Already the heralds have proclaimed on mount Ephraim the arrival of the joyful day; they summon the people to reassemble once more in Sion; and promulge, by special command the glad tidings of salvation which God had accomplished for them. God himself declares his readiness to conduct home the remnant of Israel from all parts of their dispersion, to compassionate and relieve their infirmities, and to provide them with all necessary accommodations by the way, v. 6---9. The news is carried into distant lands; and the nations are summoned to attend to the display of God's power and goodness, in rescuing his people from their stronger enemies, and in supplying them after their return with all manner of good things, to the full extent of their wants and desires, v. 10---14.

Here the scene changes, and two new personages are successively introduced, in order to diversify the same subject, and to impress it more strongly. Rachel first; who is represented as just risen from her grave, and bitterly bewailing the loss of her children, for whom she looks about her in vain, but none are to be seen. Her tears are dried up, and she is consoled with the assurance that they are not lost for ever, but shall in time be brought back to their ancient borders, v. 15---17.

Ephraim comes next. He laments his past undutifulness with great contrition and penitence, and professes an earnest desire of amendment. These symptoms of returning duty are no sooner discerned in him, than God acknowledges him once more as a darling child, and resolves with mercy to receive him, v. 18---20.

The virgin of Israel is then earnestly exhorted to hasten the preparations for her return, and encouraged with the prospect of having a signal miracle wrought in her favour, v. 21, 22. And the vision closes at last with a promise, that the divine blessing should again rest upon the land of Judah, and that the men of Judah should once more dwell there, cultivating it according to the simplicity of ancient institutions, and fully discharged from every want, v. 23---26.

In the third part, by way of appendix to the Vision, the following gracious promises are specifically annexed: That God would in time to come supply all the deficiencies of Israel and Judah; and would be as diligent to restore as he had ever been to destroy them; and would not any more visit the offences of the fathers upon the children, v. 27—30. That he would make with them a better covenant than he had made with their forefathers, v. 31—34. That they should continue his people by an ordinance as firm and lasting as that of the heavens, v. 35—37.; and that Jerusalem should again be built, enlarged in its extent, and secure from future desolation, v. 38—40.

3.—I will reverse the captivity of my people, Israel and Judah---] See Notes on Ch. iii. 18. and Ch. xxix. 14.

7.—which shall be to Jacob] It is evident, that there is no other antecedent to **חַיָּא** but **צָרָה**. Two MSS. indeed read **חַיָּא**, so as to represent **חַיָּא הַיּוֹם**; and two other MSS. one of which is the ancient Bodleian, No. 1. omit **חַיָּא**. But the text needs no alteration. "That day is a great one, and a time of distress; which [distress] shall

be to (or, upon) Jacob ;" that is, he shall himself have a share in it, although he shall in the end be rescued from it by a mighty salvation.

8.---from off his neck, and his bands] The Vulgate appears clearly to have read *et vincula ejus*, instead of *ומוסרתיו* ; and the context absolutely requires that we should read both *צוארו* and *ומוסרתיו*, " HIS neck, and HIS bands ;" for the yoke of Jacob can alone be meant, the yoke which he carried upon his neck, and the bands by which that yoke was fastened upon him ; there being no other antecedent to which the pronoun affix can possibly be referred ; and Jacob is spoken of in the third person, and not addressed in the second till afterwards at ver. 10. Accordingly the LXX. render, *απο τε τραχηλας αυτου, και τις διαμυς αυτου*, expressing the pronoun in the plural, because the antecedent Jacob is plural in sense ; which they usually do in the like circumstances, as may be seen ver. 20, 21. The collated MSS. afford several instances of this mistake of *ך* for *ו*, which requires only an extension of the lines both ways. See Bishop Lowth's note on Isai. lii. 14. where *ך* appears to have been written for *ו*.

9.---David their king---] The Messiah is thus called after the name of his progenitor, Isa. lv. 3, 4. Ezek. xxxiv. 23, 24. xxxvii. 24, 25. Hos. iii. 5.

11.---correct thee with moderation] See note on Ch. x. 24.

Ibid.--- And will not make thee altogether desolate] In this sense the Chaldee renders *וּנְקָרָה לֹא-אֲנִיךְ*, and with the approbation of several learned Commentators ; for it is a sense that seems most suitable to this place. Nor can there be a doubt that the words will admit of this construction. For the verb *נָקַר* primarily signifies *vacuum esse* ; and though it often may denote exemption from guilt or punishment, yet it may with equal reason signify, *cleared* or *emptied of all that is good*, or, *made desolate*. In this sense it is certainly used, Isa. iii. 26. and Zech. v. 3. And thus it seems most agreeable to the context to understand the words *וּנְקָרָה לֹא-אֲנִיךְ*, Exod. xxxiv. 7. Num. xiv. 18. particularly in the latter instance, where it is urged by Moses as a reason for God's sparing the Israelites, that he had declared himself to be a God of "mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and NOT UTTERLY DESTROYING, when he visiteth the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation." It must however be granted, that the other sense, in which the words are usually taken, has much to be said in its favour.

13. There is none that lendeth a helping hand for thy cure] The words *אֵין דִּן דְּנָךְ* properly signify, "there is none that pleadeth thy cause ;" but instead of *juridical*, the word *לְמִזוֹר*, and the sense of the context, require them to be understood of *medical*, assistance. *מִזוֹר* signifies *the dressing of a wound or sore*.

14. Because thy iniquity is great] *רַב* is the preter of *רַבב*. See *ל* thus used with the preter verb following, Ps. cxix. 136.

16.---Afterwards---] *לְאַחֵר*---See note on Ch. xvi. 14.

Ibid.---they that spoil thee---] For *שְׂאֵמִיךְ* six MSS. and two ancient

Editions read שומיך, and six other MSS. with one Edition, and the margin of Van der Hooght's Bible, read שמיך.

18. And the city shall be builded upon its heap] That is, "upon the ruins of the old city; for **תל** usually signifies *a heap of ruins*. It might however signify *a hill or rising ground*, such as Jerusalem was built upon, and such as was generally chosen for the site of ancient cities. So **תלם** seems to signify, Josh. xi. 13. and accordingly the margin of our Bibles here renders **תלה**, "little hill." So that by the city being built **על-תלה**, may be understood its being rebuilt upon its ancient groundplot; which perfectly corresponds with the next hemistich. By "the city," Jerusalem is commonly understood, and by **ארמון**, either the temple, or the king's palace. But I rather think that both **עיר** and **ארמון** are designed, not for any particular city or palace, but for the cities and palaces of Jacob in general. Nouns in the singular number are often thus used; which I am persuaded is the case of **עיר** and **ארמון**, Isa. xxv. 2. where they stand for the cities and palaces of the nations, whose punishment had been predicted in the conclusion of the preceding Chapter.

20. And his children---] Here we may observe, that the pronouns in this and the verse following are of a different number from those in the preceding verse; and with good reason, for they refer to different antecedents. The antecedents to those used ver. 19. are the dwelling-places of Jacob, the cities and palaces spoken of ver. 18. But the antecedent to the pronouns in this and the next verse is manifestly *Jacob himself*; a distinction not sufficiently marked in our translation.

21. And his prince shall be of his own race] The meaning here is plain, that they should not be governed by foreigners, but by those of their own nation or family. Here it is probable, that **משריו** and **מדיירו**, though singular, denote his governors and magistrates in general; as before observed on ver. 18.

Ibid. And I will draw him---] God promises to dispose the heart of his people to turn to him, as without his grace few or none would be so inclined. The sense is much the same as Ch. xxxi. 33. Compare John vi. 44, 45.

23, 24.] These two verses occur with some slight variations, Ch. xxiii. 19, 20. For **וּמַעַר** sixteen MSS. read here **וּמַעַר**, as in the parallel passage; and so do the Syr. and Chaldee. For **מִתְגִּוֵּר** one MS. reads **מִתְחַלֵּל**. Both these words are nearly of the same import, as has been already observed in the Note on Ch. xxiii. 19.

24.—the purpose] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. read **מִזְמָה** in the singular number here, as well as Ch. xxiii. 20. One MS. reads **מִזְמִת**. Three MSS. read **בִּינָה** here at the end of the verse, as in the parallel place.

CHAP. XXXI.

2.--- in the wilderness] By "the wilderness" I conceive to be here meant the barren and desolate condition of the Jewish Church and Nation during the time of their rejection. It seems to denote nearly the same, Isa. xl. 3. See Bishop Lowth's Note there.

Ibid. Israel a proceeding towards his restoration] **הלוך** (in twelve MSS. and three Editions it is written **הלך**) is, I doubt not, the infinitive verb applied as a substantive. It properly denotes *a going forwards*, or making an actual progress towards a certain point or end. Thus **ההלכים לרדת מצרים** is spoken of those, who were already set forwards, and were on their way to go down to Egypt. Isa. xxx. 2. Accordingly **הלוך להרגיע** is to be understood of God's having actually set forwards, or begun to execute his design of causing the children of Israel to return to their own land; and so is exegetic of the grace or favour which the people is said to have found in the wilderness. See the sense of **הרגיע** explained at large in Note on Ch. vi. 16. and take into the account what is observed in the following Note.

3. From afar off JEHOVAH appeared unto me] These words, it is certain were not spoken by God, as those were that go before, and those that immediately follow. They must therefore be included in a parenthesis, and seem designed to intimate, that the prophet was favoured with a visionary prospect of a remote period to come, in which God is represented as discoursing of the transactions belonging to that period, as if they were already at hand; and this accounts for the use of verbs in the past tense, both in the preceding verse, and in ver. 6, 7. It is manifest from ver. 26. that the prophet had been in a vision or trance, out of which he awaked. And it is no less evident that the general restoration of Israel, the subject of the discourse which he had heard during his vision, so much to his satisfaction, is not yet accomplished, nor entered upon, nor is there any certainty when it will be.

Ibid. Also with a love---] The **ו** before **אהבת** is omitted by the LXX, and in eight MSS.

Ibid.--have I lengthened out mercy to thee] **משך** signifies to *lengthen out* or *continue on*; and is used precisely in this sense with **חסד**, Ps. xxxvi. 10. cix. 12. God is here said to have lengthened out his mercy, or continued the exercise of it, to Israel in regard of his ancient love, although frequently provoked to abridge it.

4. Yet again shalt thou deck thyself with thy tabrets] That it was usual for the women of Israel to go forth with tabrets and dancing in times of public rejoicing and prosperity, See Exod. xv. 20. Judg. xi. 34. 1 Sam. xviii. 6. These times were now to be renewed.

5. Plant, O ye planters, and eat ye the fruit.] The verb **חלל** signifies to *make* or *use as common*, and *not prohibited*. By the law of Mo-

ses no man was allowed to eat the fruit of his vineyard till the fifth year after the planting. For the three first years it was to be considered as in a state of uncircumcision or uncleanness. In the fourth year the fruit was holy to the Lord. But after that time it became free for the owner's use. See Lev. xix. 23—25. where the verb **אכל** is accordingly used for eating of the fruit of a plantation without restraint, as also Deut. xx. 6. xxviii. 30. as well as in the passage before us. Here therefore a promise is given, directly opposite to the threat denounced Deut. xxviii. 30. that the persons, who planted the vineyards on the hills of Samaria, should not be compelled to give up the fruits of their labour to others, but should themselves remain in the land, and enjoy the produce of their plantations unmolested.

6.—For the day is come, have watchmen proclaimed—] So the words should be rendered, and not as in our translation, “For there shall be a day, that the watchmen - - - shall cry.” For the verbs **יש** and **קראו** are neither of them in the future, but in the preter tense. See the first note on ver. 3.—It is scarcely needful to repeat here what has been before observed (See Note on Ch. vi. 17.) that by “watchmen” are meant God's prophets, giving notice of his dispensations, and calling upon men to act suitably under them.

7.—the chief of the nations] This term I look upon to be synonymous with Jacob, or Israel, who, being the peculiar people of God was thereby exalted to a preeminence above other nations. The privileges of primogeniture are asserted to belong to him, ver. 9. which is equivalent to calling him the chief or head of the nations; the firstborn being commonly intitled to the rank of chief or head among many brethren Rom. viii. 29.

Ibid. JEHOVAH hath saved thy people] The LXX and Chald. render **רושע** in the third person of the preter tense, instead of the imperative; and the context seems so to require it. For to publish with praise belongs to a blessing already received, and does not imply praying for it. But in both these versions **עמו** “his people” is substituted for **עמך** “thy people;” this however is not countenanced by any of the collated MSS. nor does the context afford ground for presuming a mistake in the text. The watchmen are required to address their publication to Jacob, and to say, as they very properly might, “JEHOVAH hath saved thy people.” See the first note on ver. 3.

9. Behold with weeping shall they come] It seems much more natural to place **הנה** at the beginning of the verse, rendering it “behold,” than to construct it, as most of the ancient versions, and as our Translators have done, at the end of the 8th verse, giving it the sense of *thither*. It also suits the metre better where I have placed it.—I consider **בבכי** “with weeping” and **בתחנונים** “amidst supplications” to denote, that at the very instant they were weeping for their sins, and offering up their supplications to God for mercy, he would interpose graciously in their favour, and begin to conduct them safely back to the place, whither it was their wish to return. Compare Ch. iii. 21. Something of the same sort is said concerning Ephraim, ver. 19. 20.

Ibid.--in a smooth way wherein they shall not stumble] One MS. for **יֵשֶׁר** reads **אֲשֶׁר**; and I cannot help saying, that I think it the most natural and grammatical reading; although in conformity with the generality of Copies, and with the ancient Versions, I have followed in my version the received reading of the text. Were we to read **אֲשֶׁר**, the translation would be "in," or "along," a way wherein they shall not stumble.

Ibid. For I have been a father unto Israel] The remembrance of former connexions is here set down as the motive of God's returning favour to Israel. See ver. 3.

11. For **Jehovah** hath redeemed Jacob, and will deliver him] The first of these verbs is in the preter tense, but the second must be construed in the future, because of the *Vau* conversive. It is meant to say, that God had already begun, and would continue to carry on the redemption and deliverance of Jacob. See the first note on ver. 3.

15. A voice hath been heard in Ramah] In this verse I have kept close to the received reading, except that in conformity to the LXX. Syr. and St Matthew's Gospel, I have rejected the repetition of **עַל-בְּנוֹת**, which carries internal marks of interpolation, being not only superfluous, but rather perplexing the sense, and loading the metre. Ramah was a city of Benjamin, near which Rachel, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, was buried; who is here in a beautiful figure of poetry represented as come forth out of her grave, and lamenting bitterly for the loss of her children, none of whom presented themselves to her view, being all either slain or gone into exile. The Evangelist indeed applies these words to Herod's massacre of the infants at Bethlehem, and in its environs. Mat. ii. 17, 18. The context however plainly shews that this massacre could not have been the direct and immediate object of the prophecy. See the following Note. But the prophet's words so well suited the occasion, that the Evangelist could not help observing their congruity. He must therefore be understood just as if he had said, "The circumstances of this affair were such, that the words of Jeremiah, though spoken with a different view, may well be accommodated to the present occasion." And this is as much as can be allowed in many passages of the New Testament, where the words in the Old Testament, are said to be fulfilled. See Matt. ii. 15. Acts i. 16---20. &c. &c.

16. For thy work shall have a reward] That is, Thou shalt not have brought forth children in vain, nor shalt thou be deprived of that satisfaction in seeing the welfare of thy children, which is the parent's reward for her care and attention in bringing them into the world, and providing for their support and education. "They shall return out of the land of the enemy." But if the massacre at Bethlehem had been primarily designed here, with what propriety could this have been said?

17. There is also hope in thy latter end] See the like expression used Ch. xxix. 11.

Ibid. And thy children.] The LXX. and Arab. appear to have read בניך instead of בנים.

19.—I smote upon my thigh] Smiting upon the thigh was an indication of inward sorrow and compunction. See Ezek. xxi. 12. So also in Homer's Iliad. II 124.

————— αὐτὰρ Ἀχιλλεύς

Μῆρ' ἠλξάμενος Πάτροκλ' ἄσπετος ἔπειν.

When Ephraim was *made sensible* of his sinfulness, he discovered marks of real contrition.

Ibid. Because I did bear the reproach of my youth] That is because by the misconduct of my earlier days I had fixed a blot upon my character, and subjected myself to reproach.

20. Is Ephraim a son dear unto me? Is he, &c.] These questions are designed to be answered in the affirmative, as appears from the inference, "Therefore have my bowels been moved for him."

21. Set thee up waymarks, &c.] These words are a call to Israel to prepare for their return. צִינִים are *stone pillars*, and תְּמָרִים are *tall poles* like *palm trees*, or perhaps made of palm trees (תמר properly signifies a *palm tree*) both set up in the roads at certain distances for the traveller's direction, and extremely necessary for those, who have to pass wild and spacious deserts.

22.—wilt thou turn thyself away] קָמַק is found only here and in one other place, Cant. v. 6. where it is understood of one that had *turned himself about and gone off*; and from hence perhaps קָמוּקִי Cant. vii. 1. are thought to signify *the joints of the thighs*, which turn about for the purposes of motion. The tergiversation of Israel, their backwardness to comply with the gracious invitations given them to return, seems to be here intended.

Ibid. A woman shall put to the rout a strong man] I cannot at any rate concur in opinion with those Commentators, who understand these words to relate to the miraculous conception of the Virgin Mary without the operation of man. They surely cannot by any construction be brought to imply such a thing. Admitting that the word תְּסֹבֵב may signify, *shall encompass or comprehend in the womb*, and that גִּבּוֹר, instead of *an adult or strong man*, may also signify *a male child*; yet the words all together will still import no more, than that *a woman shall conceive, or contain, a male child*. But this, it will be said, is nothing new or extraordinary. I grant it is not, and therefore have reason to presume that this is not the sense intended.—But the verb סָבַב signifies *to turn about*, and consequently in *Hiphil* or *Pihel*, may signify, *to cause to turn about*, that is, *to repulse, or put to the rout*, an opposing adversary. But to do this implies a prevalency over him. Again, there is a manifest opposition between נִקְבָּרָה, *a woman*, one of the feeble sex, and גִּבּוֹר, which signifies not simply *a man*, but *a mighty man, a hero, or warrior*. And therefore, *A woman shall put to the rout, or repulse, a strong man*, may by a proverbial form of speech denote, *The weaker shall prevail over the stronger*. Now this, it must be confessed,

is in itself new and unusual, and contrary to the ordinary course of nature; but then it is ascribed to the interposing power of God, who is said therein to "create a new thing," or in other words, to work a miracle. The connexion of this sense with the context is easy to be explained. The Virgin of Israel is exhorted not to turn aside, or to decline the invitation given her to return, as she might perhaps be disposed to do, through dread of the power of enemies, who would oppose her deliverance. For her encouragement she is told, that she had no reason to be apprehensive of the superior strength of any enemies, since God would work a miracle in her favour, and enable her, though apparently weaker, to overcome and prevail against all their opposition. See ver. 11.—By *women* weak and feeble persons are frequently designed; see Ch. i. 37. li. 30. Isa. xix. 16.

23.—O mountain of the most Holy one] Or, "O mountain the most holy." *הר הקדש* may be rendered either way.

24.—and all his cities] By *cities* we must here understand *citizens*, or *inhabitants of cities*, as Ch. xi. 12. xxvi. 2. Gen. xxxv. 5. So also, I think, Isa. xiv. 21.

Ibid. Husbandmen altogether, and they shall go about with flocks] These words are descriptive of the circumstances, in which the ancestors of the Jews were placed upon their first introduction into the land of Canaan. The land was by divine appointment divided by lot among them, and every man had his separate portion or patrimony assigned him, which he was forbidden to alienate or exchange, and consequently was bound to cultivate himself for the maintenance of himself and family. Besides which, I conceive, there were certain districts of waste or appropriated plain, known by the name of *the wilderness*, reserved for the purpose of grazing and feeding their cattle in common. Thus every citizen was literally a husbandman without any exception, and also a shepherd or feeder of flocks. Nor could any institution be better calculated to render a people virtuous and happy, by training them up to habits of sobriety, frugality, and industry, and restraining them from the pursuits of luxury and pernicious elegance; whilst the prodigious increase of their numbers under such circumstances afforded a sufficient proof, that through the divine blessing cooperating with the natural fertility of their soil, they were all plentifully supplied with every article requisite for their commodious and comfortable subsistence. Accordingly it here appears to be the avowed design of divine providence, upon bringing the Jewish people back to inhabit once more their ancient land, to revive among them an institution so favourable to their happiness.

26. Hereupon I awoke, and saw—] These words afford a plain proof that something like a dream or visionary representation had preceded; and confirm the interpretation offered in the first Note on ver. 3.

29. The fathers have eaten a sour grape, &c.] For *אכלו* eleven MSS. and the first printed Edition of the Bible read in the future *יאכלו*, as in the Text, Ezek. xviii. 2. Five other MSS. have a rasure in the place of the *י*. It is not very material to the sense, which reading we

follow. The meaning of the proverbial expression is obvious, and seems to have been founded on what is generally declared in several parts of Scripture, that "God visiteth the sins of the fathers upon the children;" and perhaps on his having particularly threatened to bring evil upon Judah and Jerusalem for the sins committed in the reign of Manasseh; Ch. xv. 4. 2 Kings xxi, 11--15. xxiii. 26, 27. But it certainly does not follow from hence, as the proverb would seem to insinuate, that the innocent children were to be punished for the offences of their guilty fathers. This is no way consistent with our ideas of natural justice; nor can any instance be produced of God's ever having proceeded in such a manner. I speak of judicial punishment, properly so called, and not of the natural effects and consequences of sin. If children have been punished for the transgressions of their parents, it was because the children were guilty as well as the parents. Nor did the children suffer more than their own iniquities had deserved; although the delinquency of their forefathers might have become a reasonable motive for treating them with greater severity than they would otherwise have met with, in order to put a stop to the progress of hereditary wickedness. This is all I conceive, that ever was, or could be designed by God's visiting the sins of the fathers upon the children. It is promised however, that in those future times, of which the prophet was speaking, no regard of any kind should be had to the sins of others, but that every man should bear his own burden, and suffer simply and solely for his own transgressions.

32. Which covenant of mine they violated] The LXX, and St. Paul, Heb. viii. 9. render **וְכֵן** as a conjunction, *et*, but I rather consider it as a relative pronoun, with which the substantive is repeated by a pleonasm not uncommon in the Hebrew Language. See Buxtorf. Thes. Gram. Lib. ii. Cap. 8.

Ibid. Although I was a husband unto them] **וְאֲנִי בְעֵלָתִּי בָנָה**--- Various have been the attempts made to reconcile the Hebrew text with the apostle's citation, Heb. viii. 9. where we read, *καὶ ἡμεῖς αὐτοὺς*. Some have supposed the original Hebrew to have been **בְּעֵלָתִּי**, others **בְּחֻלָּתִי**, both which signify, *I have loathed*, or *abhorred*. The learned Dr. Pococke has from the Arabic asserted the same sense to belong to **בְּעֵלָתִּי**. But we find nearly the same words used before, Ch. iii. 14. **כִּי אֲנִי בְעֵלָתִּי בָנָה** which our Translators render, "for I am your husband;" but perhaps they might as well have been rendered, "for I have been your husband;" that is, I have discharged the duty of a husband, or superior relation, in patronizing and protecting you. For in all those mutual relations, which imply subordination, as between Husband and Wife, Father and Child, Sovereign and Subject, wherever submission and obedience are required on the one hand, care and protection are stipulated, or understood to be due, on the other. And this stipulation is expressly made in the Covenant between God and his People, which is so often alluded to in the very terms of the matrimonial one. Now God asserts, both in the text before us, and in the other passage above cited, that he had been "the husband" of his people, that is in other words, that he had fulfilled his part of the covenant in

taking due care of them, although they had violated it on their part by revolting and withdrawing their allegiance from him. So that with this sense of **בְּעֲלֹתִי** the words of the LXX, as they stand in the generality of Copies, do materially agree; *καὶ ἐμελεῖσθαι αὐτοῖς*, "Although I took care of, or protected, them." In the Alexandrian Copy, indeed, as well as in the Epistle to the Hebrews, the word *μελεῖσθαι* is found, which bears a quite contrary sense. But this variation in the copies of the LXX. leaves room to doubt, whether the Apostle, who certainly in this instance cited from the LXX. may not originally have written *μελεῖσθαι* too. There is nothing in the scope of his argument that is conclusive with respect to either of the two readings. The corruption might therefore have been the more readily admitted into the text of the Apostle by those, who found it already in the copies of the LXX. which they had in use.

33. I will put my law---] **נִתְּתִי** is the preter tense; but the future seems to be required. Accordingly sixteen, perhaps seventeen, MSS. prefix the **ו** conversive, besides two, which have a letter erased before **נִתְּתִי**. But the LXX. and the Apostle, Heb. viii. 10. both render, *δίδους*, which leads me to think, that probably instead of **נִתְּתִי**, the word might originally have been **בִּתְּתִי**, compounded of **תָּת** the infinitive, with the affix pronoun **י**, and the preposition **ב** prefixed. It is obvious, how easily the **ב** might have been changed into **נ**; and the construction of **בִּתְּתִי** will equally suit with the Hebrew idiom, and with the Greek translation. "When I put, or, in putting my law into their inward parts, I will also write it on their heart."

35.—the stated order—] Twenty four MSS. and five Editions read **חֻקֹּת**, and three MSS. **חֻקֹּתָי**, in the plural number. But the Syr. and Vulg. acknowledge the singular. In the LXX. the word is omitted.

Ibid. Who agitateth the sea.—] **וְיָגַע הַיָּם**—These words occur Isa. li. 15, where our Translators render, as they have done here, "who divideth;" but Bishop Lowth, "who stilleth." But on comparing the ancient versions in both places, we find a very different sense assigned to **יָגַע**. The LXX. here render, *καὶ κραυγῇ*, but in the passage of Isaiah, *ταρασσών*, and the Vulgate *turbo* and *qui turbat*; which agree better with the primary sense of **יָגַע**, that implies *quick motion*. See Taylor's Concordance, and the Note on Ch. vi. 16.

37. Because of all that they have done] Three MSS. add **לִי**, "unto me," or, "against me." And the same is expressed in the Alexandrian Copy of the LXX. and in the Chald. and Arab. Versions.

38. Behold the days come] In the Hebrew text, as it stands in the generality of MSS. and printed Editions, the word **בָּאִים** is wanting; but the Masoretes have supplied it; and it is found in twenty two, perhaps twenty three, MSS. and in five Editions; in two MSS. a word of four letters is erased after **יָמֵי**. All the ancient versions express it.

Ibid.—under the direction of JEHOVAH] **לִיְיָוָה**—"through JEHOVAH," according to his disposition and appointment. See Notes on Ch.

xv. 8. xxii. 6. Or it may signify, "for JEHOVAH," for his use and service.

Ibid. From the tower of Hananeel, &c.] Here follows a description of the circumference of a new city to be built on the site of Jerusalem; but that it does not mean the city which was rebuilt after the return of the Jews from the Babylonish captivity, is evident from two principal circumstances; first, because the limits are here extended farther, so as to include a greater space than was contained within the walls at that time; and, secondly, it is here said, that it should never be razed or destroyed any more. This new city therefore must be referred to those after times, when the general restoration of Israel is appointed to take place.

Ibid. From the tower of Hananeel unto the corner gate] Here I would beg leave to refer to a Plan of the city of Jerusalem, as rebuilt in Nehemiah's time, to be found in the Ancient Univ. History, Vol. I. Book i. Chap. 7. folio. According to this plan the tower of Hananeel appears to have stood in the north east part of the city, opposite to the west end of the temple precincts. From thence the wall proceeded to the corner gate, supposed to be the same as the old gate, which stood directly north. It probably had the name of the corner gate given it from the wall running out into an angle in that part.

39.—a line of the measure] For קוֹר fourteen MSS. and one Edition read with the Masora, קו. "A line of the measure" is a line marking the circumference.—נִגְדוֹ is rendered *straight before him*, or *directly forward*, Josh. vi. 5.

Ibid. Over the hill Gareb, and shall encompass Goatha] According to the abovementioned plan the hills Gareb and Goatha are out of the limits of the city. The latter is supposed to be *Golgotha*; that is in Hebrew, *The heap of Gotha*; which, being the place where our Saviour was crucified, was of course without the city walls at the time of that transaction. These hills were a little to the north west of the old city walls, but seem destined to be brought within the compass of the new city.

40. And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes] This was undoubtedly the valley of Hinnom, called "the valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes" from its having been made a common burying place, and a receptacle for the rubbish and filth of the city. See Ch. vii. 32. xix. 11. and Note on Ch. xix. 2. The valley of Hinnom lay to the west of the city, winding to the south. See Note on Ch. xix. 2. compared with Ancient Univ. Hist. Vol. I. B. i. Ch. 7.

Ibid. And all the fields—] Twenty five, perhaps twenty six, MSS. and six Editions, read here according to the Masora, חֲשֵׁרֵי מוֹת instead of חֲשֵׁרֵי מוֹת. *The fuller's fields* are supposed to be meant. Aquila here renders τα πλυντήρια, and the Vulg. confirms the reading of חֲשֵׁרֵי מוֹת, though divided into two words, חֲשֵׁר מוֹת, *regionem mortis*. The fuller's field is said to have been near the conduit of the upper pool, 2 Kings xviii. 17. and consequently on the south side of the city, where the pools were situate. Those fields with the valley of Hinnom, though

before without the line of the city, seem now to be included within it, if the verb ונסב, *shall wind about* or *encompass*, extends to them, as well as to Goatha, by means of the copulative.

Ibid.—the brook Kidron] This appears according to the beforementioned plan to be at the south east end of the city. Josephus places it at the foot of the mount of Olives, to the east of Jerusalem. De Bell. Jud. Lib. V. Cap. 2. Edit. Hudson. The horse gate was situate in the east.

Ibid. Sacred to JEHOVAH, it shall not be plucked up] The words קדש ליהוה “Holiness unto JEHOVAH,” were ordered to be inscribed on the plate that was worn upon the High Priest’s forehead, to denote that his person was sacred, being set apart for the peculiar service of God. Exod. xxviii. 36. The same words, I conceive, are here used to signify, that the whole circuit of the city, being consecrated to God, appropriated to his honour and service, should not thenceforward be any more subjected to ruin and devastation.

CHAP. XXVII.

IT is evident, notwithstanding the mistake that has crept into the introductory sentence of this Chapter, as will be presently noticed, that the prophecies contained both in this Chapter, and in that which follows next, belong to the fourth year of Zedekiah’s reign. About this time ambassadors came to Zedekiah from the kings of Edom, Moab, and other neighbouring nations, to solicit him, as it should seem, to join with them in a confederacy against the king of Babylon. On this occasion Jeremiah is ordered to put bands and yokes about his neck, and to send them afterwards to the beforementioned kings, declaring the sovereignty of Nebuchadnezzar and his successors to be of divine appointment, and promising peace and protection to such as submitted quietly, but menacing evil in case of resistance, v. 1—11. A like admonition is delivered to Zedekiah, advising him not to expose himself and his people to certain ruin by listening to the suggestions of false prophets, and revolting from the service of the king of Babylon, v. 12—15. The priests and all the people are also warned not to give credit to the false prophets, who taught them to expect a speedy restoration of the vessels, which had been carried to Babylon together with Jeconiah. Instead of which it is foretold, that the remaining vessels in the house of God, and in the king’s house at Jerusalem, should be carried after the other, and should not return till the appointed period of Judah’s captivity was at an end, v. 16—to the end.

1.—ZEDEKIAH—] The common reading of the text here is JEHOIAKIM; but this is so difficult to reconcile with what follows, that Mr Lowth in his Commentary upon the place, with a liberality of sentiment the more laudable, as it was singular in his days, when almost all the world was infatuated with a vain prejudice of the absolute integrity of the Hebrew Text, owns his persuasion, that “the least forced way” of solving the difficulty is to say, that JEHOIAKIM is crept into the

“Text, by the negligence of the Scribes (who might have their eyes fixed upon the beginning of the last Chapter or Section) instead of “ZEDEKIAH.” Accordingly we find צדקיהו in one MS. of good repute and antiquity, in the margin of another, and most probably it was so in the text of a third, where the י was evidently צ at first, and the remainder of the word is upon a rasure. The Syr. and the Oxford MS. of the Arabic Version also read, ZEDEKIAH. See Note on Ch. xxviii. 1.

2. Thus said JEHOVAH unto me] The word מלי is omitted by the LXX. as are all the words כרו אמר יהוה מלי in the Syriac Version. One MS. for מלי reads מלוי ישראל. In all these cases it might not be improper to render in the preceding verse according to the usual form, “came this word unto Jeremiah from JEHOVAH, saying—” But the introduction of מלי, “unto me,” which is found in all the collated MSS. and Editions, and in the Chald. and Vulgate Versions, and in the MS. Pachom. of the LXX. seems to imply, that the prophet was commanded to declare what JEHOVAH had given him in charge to do. And it follows accordingly ver. 12. that he did so declare it in the presence of Zedekiah, adding a serious admonition, with a particular application to that king and his people of what had been before laid down in general terms concerning every nation and kingdom, according as they did or did not submit to the power, which God had appointed to rule over them.

5.---and the man---] Three MSS. read ואת האדם, and the Syr. and Vulgate likewise prefix the conjunction. The LXX. omit all the following words, ואת-האדם ואת-הבהמה אשר על-פני הארץ.

7.---when many nations, &c.] See Note on Ch. xxv. 14.

13.---and by famine] Seven MSS. and one Edition read וברעב, conformably with the Syr. Chald. and Vulg. which all express the conjunction.

19.---the pillars---the sea---the bases---] See 1 Kings vii. 15, 23, 27. and compare Ch. lii. 17, &c.

21.---and in Jerusalem] One MS. reads here ובירושלם, as at ver. 18. and another has a rasure in the place of ב. The Chald. also and Theodotion express the preposition.

CHAP. XXVIII.

HANANIAH pretendeth to prophesy in the name of JEHOVAH, that within two years the Babylonish yoke should be broken, and that the vessels which had been carried to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, together with all the captives, should within that time be restored; v. 1. —4. Jeremiah consenteth to allow of Hananiah's pretensions to the character of a true prophet, in case his prediction be accomplished; v. 5—9. Hananiah in confirmation of what he had foretold breaketh off the yoke from Jeremiah's neck; v. 10, 11. Jeremiah is ordered to declare that the king of Babylon's yoke instead of wood should be made of iron; v. 12—14. He foretelleth the death of Hananiah with-

in the year; and he dieth accordingly two months after; v. 15. to the end.

1.—in the same year—] Here we find the precise date of the preceding prophecy ascertained, and that it was delivered not only in the beginning of Zedekiah's reign, but in the fourth year of it, and gave rise to the following transaction.—How the fifth month of the fourth year of Zedekiah's reign can be said to be "the beginning" of it, see accounted for in the prefatory note on Ch. xxvi.

Ibid.—in the fourth year] The Masora instead of בשנת reads בשנור, which is more regular, and is the reading of twenty, perhaps twenty two, MSS, four Editions, and the Jerusalem Talmud.

Ibid.—Hananiah the son of Azur the prophet] In what sense Hananiah was a prophet, see Note on Ch. xxvi. 7.

8.—and of calamity] So ולרעוֹ signifies, which is the present reading of the Text; but twenty one MSS. and one Edition, read ולרעב, "and of famine;" and three MSS. read לרעב without the conjunction. ולרעב seems the most probable reading, if we consider that the evils frequently threatened by the prophet are *the sword*, (that is, *war*) *famine*, and *pestilence*. See Ch. xxiv. 10. xxvii. 8, 13. xxix. 17, 18. &c. The LXX. in this place omit the two latter, and speak only of πολέμου, *war*; but in the MS. Pachom. it is added, και ως πανα, και ως θανατου; the Vulgate substitutes *et de fame*, instead of ולרעב.

13.—yokes of wood] For מוֹטָה, which is singular, nineteen MSS. and one Edition read מוֹטוֹת, and thirteen MSS. and three Editions, מוֹטוֹת at large. Also for ועשית, "but thou shalt make," the LXX. and Arab. render, "but I will make," as from ועשיתי.

16.—prevarication---] See Note on Ch. xxix. 32.

CHAP. XXI.

THIS Chapter contains the first of those prophecies, which were delivered by Jeremiah subsequent to the revolt of Zedekiah, and the breaking out of the war thereupon, and which are continued on to the taking of Jerusalem, related in Ch. xxxix. in the following order, Ch. xxi. xxxiv. xxxvii. xxxii. xxxiii. xxxviii. xxxix.

The Message in this Chapter has by some been confounded with that in Ch. xxxvii. (See the Argument prefixed to Ch. xxi. in Mr Lowth's Commentary) but they are, I think, clearly and undeniably distinct from each other. From the reply given to that in Ch. xxxvii. it is manifest, that the Chaldeans, who had been besieging Jerusalem for some time, had already raised the siege, and were gone to meet the Egyptian army, leaving the Jews in great hopes that they would never return again. But the terms of this message seem to imply, that the king of Babylon had but just commenced his hostilities against Judah, of which Zedekiah informs the prophet, as of a matter that might not yet have come to his certain knowledge; and desires him to intercede with God, that he would divert the storm by some such extraordinary interposition, as he had been wont to manifest in favour of his people, v. 1, 2. The

answer likewise takes no notice of any siege or operations past, but simply regards the future, which it is declared should end unfortunately, because God would take an active part against the inhabitants of Judah, and would deliver both their city, and also the king and his people, into the hands of their merciless enemies, v. 3--7. It is further shewn, that the only resource of the people for safety was to surrender themselves to the Chaldeans, v. 8--10. And as for the Royal house, they are warned to prevent the effects of God's indignation by doing justice and right, and not to trust to their strong hold, which would stand them in no stead, when God was bent on their destruction, v. 11. to the end. The time of this transaction therefore I conceive to be in the ninth year of Zedekiah, previous to the siege of Jerusalem, which began in the tenth month of that year.

2. INTREAT---] שׁוּב signifies to *seek* or *apply* to God by prayer and supplication, as well as to *inquire* any thing of him. See Isai. lv. 6. and the former sense is most suitable in this place. See note on Ch. xxxvii. 7.

Ibid.---NEBUCHADREZZAR] Dr Kennicot has observed that the name of the king of Babylon is thus spelt in twenty six other places of this book, besides that before us, in the printed copies; and in ten places, *Nebuchadnezzar*. There is a great variation in the MSS.

3. Thus shall ye say---] Thirty MSS. and three Editions read תאמרו instead of תאמרן. One MS. seems to read תאמר, and in another ׀ is upon a rasure.

9.—he shall even live—] The Masora for יחיה reads ויחיה and is countenanced by eighteen MSS. two capital Editions, the margin of Felix Pratensis, the Chald. Paraphrast, and the Babylonish Talmud. There is also some trace of it in the LXX; for though we read there, ζῆσται, καὶ ἔσται ἡ ψυχὴ αὐτοῦ ὡς σκυλα, it follows immediately καὶ ζῆσται.

Ibid.—his life shall be unto him as spoil] See note on Ch. xlv. 5. In the MS. Pachom. of the LXX, instead of ὡς σκυλα, we read ὡς πριλεμα.

10.—in an evil, and not in a friendly manner] See notes on Ch. xiv. 11. xxiv. 5, 9.

12.—searching out right] לבקר appears to me to be the Gerund from בקר, to *seek*, or *search out diligently*; and to afford a better sense than if we render it, “in the morning.”—Perhaps we may find a similar mistake in the sense of לבקרים, Isai. xxxiii. 2. which is there rendered by our English Translators, “every morning.” But might not the words לבקרים חיה זרעם be better translated, “Be thou their support to those that seek,” or make application to thee for that purpose? The pleonasm of the affix in זרעם being an extremely common Hebrew idiom.

Ibid.—lest my wrath go forth like fire] It has been the opinion of many learned men, and Mr Lowth in particular, in the argument prefixed to this Chapter in his Commentary, gives it for his, that “all

which follows from ver. 11. of this Chapter belongs to the same subject with the xxiid Chapter, and relates to the time of Jehoiakim." And afterwards in his Note on these words, "lest my fury go out like fire," he infers from them, "that this prophecy was antecedent to that at the beginning of the Chapter, and before that peremptory decree was published against the king's house, mentioned ver. 7. of this Chapter." But I cannot help thinking that this latter part is but a continuation of the same prophecy with which the Chapter begins; for the house of David was still to be visited with more calamities than those which had befallen it in the days of Jehoiakim. And how peremptory soever the decree may sound, ver. 7. we must remember the rule laid down concerning such decrees, Ch. xviii. 7. 8. none of which, it seems, are irreversible on the condition of a change of conduct. And though God may well be supposed to know when no such ground of reversal will take place, yet it is agreeable to the justice of his providence, repeatedly to admonish sinners of the means by which his judgments may be avoided, that they may have none to blame but themselves, when the threatened vengeance overtakes them.

Ibid.---of your doings---] The Masora for מעלליכם reads מעליכם, and is countenanced by twenty one MSS. and by the Syr. Chald. and Vulgate versions. The LXX. omit the three last words of this verse; but in MS. Pachom. we find, ἀπο προσηνυ αἰμας τῶν ποταμῶν καὶ ὑμῶν. One MS. reads מעלליכם.

13. O thou inhabitant of the levelled hollow of a rock.] It is impossible that our present English Translation can be right, for there appears no trace of a conjunction preceding צור; nor do I see any reason to suppose that it is Jerusalem, which is here addressed by apostrophe; although such seems to be the prevailing opinion; or how that city could well be said to be "an inhabitant of the valley," when it was built chiefly on two hills, as we learn from Josephus (De Bell. Jud. Lib. V. c. 4. Edit. Huds.) or how it could be called "a rock of the plain," when it was surrounded with deep vallies, "for the most part environed with other not far removed mountains, as if placed in the midst of an amphitheatre;" which is the description given of it by a modern Traveller, who had been upon the spot. Sandy's Travels, B. iii. p. 155.—The address is certainly continued on to the house of David, whose place of residence was mount Sion, called, The city of David. This was a very high and steep rocky mountain on every side, and in the opinion of its ancient possessors the Jebusites deemed impregnable, till David took it from them, 2 Sam. v. 6, 7. and both he and his successors are said to have improved considerably its natural strength. This is undoubtedly here meant by צור; and רעמק I conceive to signify the hollow surface of this rock at the top, in which, רמיש, *levelled*, or *regularly formed by art*, the foundations of the buildings were laid. For it is manifest, that if רמיש be considered as the participle *Pyhal* from ישר, *to be even* or *level*, it must on account of the prefixed article rather agree with רעמק, which has the article likewise, than with צור. And this situation in a hollow at the top of a rock is perhaps alluded to in the word מקנת, which is used concerning the same family, Ch. xxii.

23. who are said to "make their nest," as the eagle doth, in the holes or clefts of the high rocks, See Ch. xlix. 16. And confiding in the strength of their situation, the inhabitants are here represented as defying the approach of any one to hurt them.

14.—in the forest thereof, and it shall burn all around it] This translation is made according to the present reading of the text, ביערור, when the affix must be referred to the house of David, and "the forest thereof" will then denote the large trees or timber, of which the habitations of that royal family were built, and in respect of which it is called, Ch. xxii. 23. "the inhabitant of Lebanon that made her nest among, or of cedars."—But there is some reason to suspect the authenticity of the word ביערור; both the Syr. and Chald. appear to have read בערור, which is some advance towards בערור, the reading of one, and בוערור, the reading of two MSS. which, if admitted as the participle present of בער, *to burn*, the rendering of the passage would be, "And I will kindle a fire burning and consuming," or, "which shall burn and consume" all around it; that is, all around the fire itself.

CHAP. XXXIV.

THIS Chapter contains two distinct prophecies. The first of which is dated at the time when Nebuchadnezzar was engaged in carrying on the siege of Jerusalem, and of the cities of Lachish and Azekah, most probably towards the latter end of the ninth year of Zedekiah, the siege having been begun in the tenth month of that year. It announces to Zedekiah the taking and burning of Jerusalem, his own captivity, peaceful death, and honourable interment, v. 1.—7.

The second Prophecy was delivered some time after, when the Chaldeans had broken off the siege, and were marched off to meet the Egyptian army, which made a shew of coming to the relief of Jerusalem. It reproaches the people of Judah for their perfidious and inhuman behaviour to their brethren, whom they had released from bondage according to the law; but on thinking all danger from the enemy over, had compelled to resume their former servitude. For this God threatens to let loose upon them at once the sword, the pestilence, and the famine; and to deliver them up to the vexations of the Chaldeans, their cruel enemies, who should return, take and burn their city, and reduce their country to a solitary waste, v. 8. to the end.

1. and against all the cities thereof—] The LXX. and Arab. with one MS. instead of עריה, read ערי יחוריה, as at ver. 7. But עריר means the same, as the other cities of Judah were all dependent upon the authority residing in the capital.

5.—according to the burnings of thine ancestors] See 2 Chron. xvi. 14. xxi. 19. from whence it appears to have been customary for the Jews to burn a large quantity of spices, at the interment of their kings; an honour not refused to Zedekiah, though he died in captivity.

Ibid.—they shall lament for thee [saying] Ah lord] See Ch. xxii. 18. and the Note there.

8.—to proclaim liberty unto them—] By the law of Moses, Exod. xxi. 2. Deut. xv. 12. the Israelites were not allowed to detain their brethren of the Hebrew race in perpetual bondage, but were required to let them go free after having served six years. This law had, it seems, fallen into disuse; but king Zedekiah, upon the approach of the Chaldean army, whether from religious motives, or a political view to employ the men who were set free in the service of the war, engaged the people in a covenant to act conformably to the law; and they released their brethren accordingly. But no sooner were their fears abated by the retreat of the Chaldeans, than in defiance of every principle of religion, honour, and humanity, they imposed the yoke of servitude anew upon those unhappy persons.

Archbishop Usher computes the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign to have been the Sabbatical year, and supposes that on this account the covenant of general release was entered into at the beginning of that year. But the sabbatical year, which was every seventh year from that in which the Israelites entered into possession of the land of Canaan, had nothing at all to do with the release of servants. In the year of sabbath they were only restrained from sowing their ground, and pruning their vineyard. But every seventh year from the beginning of their service the Hebrew bondslaves were to be discharged. Six years they were to serve, and in the seventh they were to go out free. Only the fiftieth year, or year of Jubilee, was also to be a time of general release. Lev. xxv. 39---41. But that the sabbatical year was so, I see not the least reason to conclude, but quite the contrary.

10.—and all the princes hearkened] That is, they hearkened or conformed to the obligations of the covenant, which they had entered into at the instigation of their prince.

11.—and compelled them to serve] For ויכבשוּם forty three MSS. and four Editions read with the Masora ויכבשוּם. See ver. 16.

14. At the end of seven years] This is the literal rendering of מִקַּץ שִׁבְעַ שָׁנִים; but the import of the phrase is, *in the course of the seventh year*, or, in the last term of that period. See Mr Lowth's note on this verse. Compare Deut. xv. 1, 9.

16.—and took back---] For ורשבוּ, which occurs twice in this verse, forty two MSS. and three Editions read ורשיבוּ in the second instance, as in the first instance fourteen MSS. read ורשבוּ. And this distinction of the conjugations *Kal* and *Hiphil* seems necessary to be thus expressly marked, as we find it in the text at ver. 11.

17.—and to the pestilence---] All the ancient versions, except the Vulgate, place the conjunction before ואל־חֲדָבָר; and thirty four MSS. and three of the oldest editions, read ואל־חֲדָבָר.

Ibid.—to vexation---] The Masora in conjunction with thirty six MSS. and three Editions read לזעורָה instead of לזעורָה; but in support of the present reading see Note on Ch. xv. 4.

18.—in presence of the calf] All the versions that I have met with,

both ancient and modern, have fallen into the same error (so I deem it) of rendering לפני "in my presence;" whereas לפני appears to me to have no affix, but to have the government of the next word that follows, דעגל, and therefore we should render לפני דעגל, "in presence of the calf." This at once takes away all the difficulty that has been found in the construction of דעגל, and the case appears to be this. In order to ratify the covenant, they killed a calf, or young bullock, which they cut in two, and placing the two parts at some distance from each other, they passed between them; intending to signify by this rite that they consented to be served in the like manner, in case they violated their part of the covenant. Something of the like sort was in practice among the Greeks and Romans upon such occasions, as may be seen in Homer's Iliad, r. 298. and Livy's Roman History, Lib. i. c. 24. and Lib. xxi. c. 45. Hence there will appear a peculiar force in the expression of *entering into the covenant in presence of the calf*, because the sight of that object served to remind them of the penalties they subjected themselves to on violating their engagement.---We find God conforming himself to this usage, when he made a covenant with Abraham, Gen. xv. 9, 10. 17, 18.

19.---and the eunuchs] The LXX. Syr. Chald. and Arabic Versions add the conjunction before דסרסם, or דסרסם, as it is more perfectly written in forty four MSS. and four ancient Editions.

22.---and burn it with fire] Forty seven MSS. and seven Editions read regularly ושרפו, instead of ושרפו.

CHAP. XXXVII.

IN the beginning of this Chapter certain preliminary facts are related, tending to fix the time and occasion of Zedekiah's second message to Jeremiah, v. 1---5. God suggests an answer, foretelling the retreat of the Egyptians, and the return of the Chaldean army, who should take and burn Jerusalem, v. 6---10. During the absence of the Chaldeans, Jeremiah attempting to quit the city, and retire to his own country possessions, is seized upon for a deserter, and thrown into a dungeon, v. 11---15. The king sends for, and consults him; and being intreated by the prophet not to remand him to his former prison, is prevailed upon to change the place, and to abate of the rigour of his confinement, v. 16. to the end.

3.---Jehucal the son of Shelemiah---] This man came in the place of Pashur, who together with Zephaniah brought the former message from Zedekiah. See the other marks of distinction between the two messages in the introductory Note on Ch. xxi.

4.---into prison] Eighteen, perhaps nineteen, MSS. and two Editions, read דכלל according to the Masora, instead of דכלל. Six MSS. read דכלל.

7.---to seek me] Our English Translators render, "to enquire of me." But this is not the proper sense of דרש here; for the messengers were not sent to ask any question of God, but to desire the prophet to

be their advocate with him, to *seek*, or *solicit him in their favour*; ver. 3. See Note on Ch. xxi. 2.

12.---to receive a portion thereof---] This is a proper sense of the verb *קָלַח*, to *divide*, or *take a share* among others; as *קֶלַח* the noun also signifies *a portion*, or *share*. And this seems a more natural interpretation here, than to understand it, as our Translators seem to have done, of the prophet's *withdrawing himself* or *slipping away* (as it is expressed in the margin) for fear of being shut up again in the city on the renewal of the blockade. For the case appears to have been this. Jeremiah had been cut off from his patrimony in the land of Benjamin by the Chaldeans having been masters there. But upon their retreat he meant to return, with a view of coming in for a share of the produce of the land with the rest of his neighbours. For that he was likely to want some means for his support, is evident from his having been obliged to be subsisted in prison-afterwards upon a public allowance.

15.—for they made that a prison] There is nothing extraordinary in making the dwellinghouse of a great man a prison, according to either the ancient, or modern manners of the East. See Gen. xxxix. 20. Even in the royal palace itself we find there was a prison; Ch. xxxii. 2. Mr Harmer (Obs. Ch. viii. Obs. 37.) gives the following passage concerning Eastern prisons, out of a MS. of Sir John Chardin. “The eastern prisons are not public buildings erected for that purpose, but a part of the house in which their criminal judges dwell. As the governor and provost of a town, or the captain of the watch, imprison such as are accused in their own houses, they set apart a canton of it for that purpose, when they are put into these offices, and choose for the jailor the most proper person they can find of their domestics.”

And thus Mr Harmer thinks that Jonathan's house became a prison, in consequence of his being made a royal scribe, or, as we should term him, secretary of state.

16.—was entered into the dungeon, and into the cells] From comparing this place with Ch. xxxviii. 6. it seems likely that *the dungeon* was a deep pit, sunk perpendicularly like a well, in the middle of the open court or quadrangle, around which the great houses were built; and that in the sides of it, near the bottom, were scooped niches, like the cabins of a ship, for the separate lodgment of the unfortunate persons who were let down there. Hence also it may be, that the same word *בֹּר* is frequently put for *the grave*; the ancient repositories of the dead being often constructed with niches in the same manner, in which the bodies were placed separately. Accordingly we read, Isa. xiv. 15. “But thou shalt be brought down to the grave, to the sides of the pit.” *אֶל-יִרְכַּת-בֹּר*.

19. And where—] Thirteen MSS. and four Editions read with the Masora *וְאִי־רָאָה*, instead of *וְאִי*.

20.---let my supplication fall down before thee] That is, let me be allowed to supplicate thee in the most humble manner, prostrating myself before thee.---See Note on Ch. xxxvi. 7.

21.—into the court of the prison] This was not belonging to the house of Jonathan the scribe, where the dungeon was ; but the court of the prison in the king's house, mentioned Ch. xxxii. 2.

Ibid.—and allowed him] Literally, “allowing him also ;” for יתר is the infinitive used for a Gerund.

CHAP. XXXII.

THE date of the following transaction and prophecy is ascertained at the beginning of this Chapter to have been in the tenth year of Zedekiah's reign, whilst the Chaldeans invested the city, and Jeremiah was confined in the court of the prison. These circumstances shew, that it must have been after that the Egyptians had retreated back to their own land, and the Chaldeans had renewed the siege a second time. Different however is the opinion of Usher, Prideaux, and other learned men, who suppose a prior imprisonment of Jeremiah, immediately after he had spoken to Zedekiah, as is represented Ch. xxxiv. 1—7. And the ground of this supposition seems to be, his being here in this chapter said to have been confined by Zedekiah for having spoken those words. But it does not follow from hence, that he was immediately put under confinement for the offence so given. No such thing is related Ch. xxxiv. nor expressly asserted elsewhere. On the contrary, it is expressly denied, Ch. xxxvii. 4. where it is said, that at the time the message came from Zedekiah during the temporary absence of the Chaldeans, Jeremiah was at full liberty, “for they had not cast him into prison.” Words which could not have been properly used, had he been released from prison but a very little while before. The truth, I am persuaded, is, that Jeremiah was confined by order of Zedekiah but once, and then in consequence of the disagreeable truths spoken by him, as is here reported. For it is evident, that the king, when he sent for him, Ch. xxxvii. 17. had nothing to lay to his charge, nor does he offer to disprove the prophet's asseverations of his innocence. But he was probably mortified to perceive, that the prophet's sufferings had not made him more pliable, as he hoped to have found him, but that he still persisted in his former denunciations of evil ; and therefore, though he condescended to mitigate, he would not absolutely release him from his confinement, but committed him to the court of the prison ; which accordingly became the scene of the following transaction. I trust therefore that this Chapter and that which follows next will appear to be inserted in their proper place.

The circumstances of time and place being specified as above in the five first verses, Jeremiah relates the order he received from God to buy the field of Hanameel ; which he does in due form, and delivers the writings to Baruch to keep safely, in token of God's promise to restore the rights of possession in the land, v. 6.—15. Jeremiah in a prayer to God acknowledges his infinite greatness and power, and the wonders of his goodness to Israel, with the ungrateful and contumacious behaviour of that people, which had derived the present evil upon them ; and concludes with an humble representation of the desperate circum-

stances of his country, notwithstanding which he had been commanded to make the foregoing purchase, v. 16—25. In reply God asserts his own allsufficiency; and then goes on to avow his determined resolution to give up the city to be taken and burned by the Chaldeans, because of the many and great provocations that had been given him, v. 26—35. He promises however in time to reassemble his people, and bring them back to their own land, to enter into covenant with them anew, and to promote their welfare; so that the land, though given up to desolation at present, should flourish again, and possessions be once more bought and sold, as in former time, v. 36—to the end.

1.---the tenth year---] בשנת עשירית—The Masora here proposes to read בשנור, with the concurrence of sixteen MSS. and three Editions. But בשנת is equally justifiable by usage. See Ch. xlv. 2. li. 59. &c. &c.

4.---and his eyes---] The Masora here reads ועיניו. This is clearly right, and is confirmed by fifty four MSS, and seven Editions, together with all the ancient versions, and the parallel passage, Ch. xxxiv. 3. where we read ועיניך, and not עיניך.

5.---When ye shall fight against the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.] Three MSS. ancient ones, read ולחם תצליחו, according to which the Syriac renders, “for ye shall fight against the Chaldeans, but shall not prosper.” A turn very suitable to the context.

7.---thine is by law the redemption for to purchase] See Lev. xxv. 25. כושפם is the *law* or *ordinance* there established, and is governed by the preposition כ, sunk by Ellipsis at the beginning; answering to *jure* or *de jure*, in Latin.

8.---thine is by law the inheritance---] See Numb. xxvii. 11.

9.---and I paid him the money, seventeen shekels of silver] As money was anciently paid by weight and not by tale, the verb שָׁקַל is often used simply for *to pay*, and the act of weighing in the *balance*, or *scales*, being specified particularly in the next verse, I have rendered ואשקלו here simply, “And I paid”---See Isa. lv. 2. where שָׁקַל is applied, not only to *silver*, which might be weighed, but to *labour* also, where it can only signify the *paying* or *bartering* of it in exchange according to its supposed worth.—As to the price that was paid, doubts have arisen concerning the amount of it. *Seventeen shekels of silver* make but about forty shillings sterling; and this has been thought too inconsiderable a price for the purchase of a piece of ground. But it should be considered in the first place, that the quantity of land is uncertain; and next, that the circumstances of the times must have greatly tended to lessen the value of landed estates. The field in question was at the time of the purchase in the enemy's possession; and the purchaser well knew, that he or his heirs had no chance of entering upon it till after the expiration of the seventy years captivity; so that the purchase money was not in itself so inadequate, as at first sight might be imagined. Besides the Seller, it is likely, was in immediate want of money, and could get no one else to purchase in the precarious situation things were in. He might therefore be glad to take what the prophet,

who doubtless was not rich, was able to give, and who would not have thought of making the purchase at any rate, had he not acted under the divine direction for a special purpose. From the construction of the words **שבעה שקלים ועשרה חכסף** some have been led to suppose, that **עשרה חכסף** meant "ten pieces of silver" of a different value from *shekels*. But the numerals in Hebrew are so variously disposed in different places, as to afford no certain rule of arguing from thence. Upon the whole I should think, that "seventeen shekels of silver" are most likely to be the sum here intended; only perhaps there may be a redundancy of the **ח** in **חכסף**, repeated by mistake from the end of the preceding word; and in one MS. it is omitted.

10. And I had a deed drawn up and sealed, and I caused witnesses to witness] I see no reason why **אכתב** and **אחתם**, as well as **אער**, may not be considered as in *Hiphil*. The formalities of a Hebrew bargain of sale are here worth noticing.

11.---that which was sealed [containing] the assignment and the limitations, and that which was open] The deed or instrument of purchase, from what is here said, seems to have been written upon a single roll, but to have consisted of two parts; the upper part containing **המצורה**, which I conceive to be the *formula*, directing the assignment, or making over the property; and **החוקים**, "the limitations," or description of the premises. This part was rolled up, and sealed with the seals of the parties, or perhaps of the public officer who attended; by which the falsification of the contents was prevented. At the bottom, which was left open, perhaps an abstract of the deed was written, and the names of the witnesses; this being for public notoriety, as the close part was reserved for evidence in case of judicial controversy.

12. And I delivered the purchase deed to Baruch] Baruch was a scribe by profession, and it may be concluded, that the attendance of such a one, skilled in the forms of law, was necessary on those occasions, both to draw up the writings, and to officiate in the capacity of a Notary public with us. And to his custody, as being a public officer, the custody of the Title-deeds was intrusted.

Ibid.---my uncle's son] In the original text we read only **רדי**, "my uncle;" but the LXX, Syr. Vulg. and Arab. render, "my uncle's son," as in the preceding verses; and seven, perhaps nine, MSS. read **רדי בן**, or **רדי בן**.

Ibid.---the witnesses who were written in the purchase deed] **הכתובים** may be taken either actively, or passively, for *those who wrote*, or *those who were written*; and fourteen, perhaps sixteen, MSS. and four ancient Editions read **הכתובים**. The Syr. Chald. and Vulg. also render in the passive. I prefer this too, as the subscription of witnesses to deeds in their own handwriting appears to be a modern practice only. The ancient mode with us was this; when the instrument was drawn up, it was read in the hearing of the witnesses (which seems to be what the prophet meant by **ואער עדים**, "and I caused witnesses to witness") and then the clerk, or scribe, added their names in a sort of memorandum. See Blackstone's Commentaries, Book. ii. Ch. 20.

The same I suppose to have been the proceeding here ; nor do I recollect in any part of the sacred writings the most distant allusion to a man's signing his own name by way of evidence ; unless it may be so inferred from our English translation of Isai. xliv. 5. where we read, " And another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord ;" instead of which the LXX, Aquila, and Symmachus, agree in rendering, " And another shall write upon his hand, I belong to God ;" which Bishop Lowth in his Note upon the place has shewn to be " an allusion " to the marks which were made by punctures rendered indelible by " fire, or by staining, upon the hand or some other part of the body, " signifying the state or character of the person, and to whom he belonged ; the slave was marked with the name of his master ; the soldier, of his commander ; the idolater, with the name or ensign of his " god." But though there is no allusion in the scriptures to the evidence of subscription, there frequently is to *sealing*, as a mode of authentication.

Ibid.---and in the presence of all the Jews] Nine, perhaps ten MSS. read here וּלְעֵינֵי with the conjunction ; and so the LXX, Syr. and Vulgate.

14.—Take these writings] I do not think that this contradicts what is said in the Note on ver. 11. For הַסְּפָרִים may be understood of the two parts of the same roll, of which one was sealed, and the other part left open.

18.—whose name is JEHOVAH of hosts—] One MS. reads שֵׁמֶךָ instead of שְׁמוֹ, and the Vulgate renders, *nomen tibi*. But the text, I think, needs no alteration ; for the הוּא is emphatic before the three words, הַגָּבִיֹר הָאֵל הַגָּדוֹל, and we might render thus, " the God, the great— " est, the mightiest, he whose name is JEHOVAH of hosts."

20.—and wonders in the land of Egypt, even unto this day] Twenty seven MSS. and twelve Editions read וּמוֹפְתִים, as expressed at large in the next verse, where we read וּבְמוֹפְתִים—It is not meant, that God had continued on working miracles in Egypt from the time of Moses, but that the miracles which he then wrought in Egypt continued still to bear witness to his omnipotency both there and in Israel, and among all mankind.

21.—and with a stretched out arm] וּבְאֵזְרוֹ—Nine MSS. omit the א. The word אֵזְרוֹ however occurs for זְרוֹ once besides in the Hebrew. Job xxxi. 22.

23.—according to thy law---] Twenty five, perhaps twenty six MSS. and seven Editions, read with the Masora, וּבְתוֹרָתְךָ, instead of וּבְתוֹרָתְךָ. Some of these MSS. are of the most ancient. One MS. reads וּבְתוֹרָתְךָ. The LXX. and Arab. render in the plural number, but the Syr. Chald. and Vulgate in the singular. In MS. Pachom. the rendering is, *ut in* instead of *ut in* *τοῖς προσηγορίαις*.

30.—surely the children of Israel have been but provoking me---] Four MSS. and one Edition here add כִּי after כִּי, as before at the beginning of the verse.

† 31. For a yoke of mine anger, and a yoke of mine indignation, hath this city been to me] As I cannot construe עַל here as a preposition, I am led to suppose it to be the noun עֹל, *a yoke*, written by abbreviation, עַל. The metaphor, it must be confessed, is strong and singular, but the meaning is obvious enough, and suitable to the context. For as a yoke upon the neck compels the bearer to carry about the burden suspended from it: so, God says, the city of Jerusalem, because of the notorious wickedness of the people, had been as it were a yoke about his neck, having his anger and his indignation so closely connected with it, that he could not dismiss them, till they had caused an entire removal of the offensive object from before him.

33.—and when I taught them] וְלָמַד here in the first instance, if the text be right, must be the participle present, agreeing with אֲנִי; “they have turned the back, and not the face, unto me, even teaching them.” But this construction seems not very familiar to the Hebrew language. I therefore am inclined to suspect a fault in the text, and that instead of וְלָמַד, we should read וְאֲנִי לִמַּד אֹתָם, and the ancient versions of the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. favour this conjecture. One MS. read at first לִמַּד instead of וְלָמַד; and the ו may have been the remains of וְאֲנִי.

34, 35.] See Ch. vii. 30, 31. and the Notes there.

35.—to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through unto Molech] Our English version runs, “to pass through the fire;” but though שָׂרָא is added in the text, Deut. xviii. 10. 2 Kings xvi. 3. and in several other parallel places, it is not found so here, (except in two MSS.) nor Lev. xviii. 21. It is however, no doubt, to be understood. But how much is implied in thus *causing the children to pass through the fire*, is a point that learned men are not quite agreed in. Some suppose that the children were only *dedicated* to the idol deity by a ceremony, in which fire was used without hurting them: and it is certain that דָּעַבִּיר implies no more than a bare *dedicating* or *consecrating*, Exod. xiii. 12. On the other hand, by comparing other passages, and particularly the parallel ones, Ch. vii. 31. xix. 4. we shall there see reason to conclude, that the children were actually burned to death in the fire, and consumed like other burnt offerings. See Bishop Patrick’s Comment. on Lev. xviii. 21. and Mr Lowth’s on Ch. vii. 31. The fact in all probability was, that the more tenderhearted parents were content simply to dedicate their children, waving them perhaps over the fire that was burning before the idol, without doing them any corporal hurt: whilst the gloomy superstition of others prompted them to go greater lengths, and to perpetrate the most inhuman barbarities under the notion of religious worship. Both however were guilty of actions highly offensive to God, and provoking his resentment.

Ibid.—for to bring guilt upon Judah] Twenty, perhaps twenty one MSS. and two Editions, read with the Masora דָּעַבִּיר instead of דָּעַבִּיר. The final א is lost in the initial of the word that follows.

36.—after this—] לָכֵן—See note on Ch. xvi. 14.

40. which I will not withdraw from their posterity] For אֲשׁוּב the

Hast thou not heard ? of old I have done it,
Of ancient times I have also formed it ; now have I brought it
on ;

And thou hast been for the desolating of flourishing nations,
strongly fortified cities.

The pronoun **IT** here evidently refers to “the desolating of flourishing nations, &c ;” for this was the very thing which God says he had “done of old, and formed in ancient times,” as Nebuchadnezzar might well be supposed to “have heard ;” and this was also that which he had “brought about of late” by the agency of Nebuchadnezzar himself ; who indeed had been vain enough to arrogate to himself the whole performance, although he had only borne the part of a subordinate minister in it.—Bishop Lowth in interpreting this verse adopts the reading of the LXX. גוֹיִם נְצִיִּים, instead of גְּלִיִּים נְצִיִּים ; and I have done the same ; but instead of “warlike nations,” I have rendered נְצִיִּים, “flourishing,” from נָוץ, *to flourish*.

3.—And hidden things.—] Two MSS. and the celebrated printed Bible called MINCHATH SHAI (see Dr Kennicott's Dissert. General. § 62.) instead of וּבְצִרֹת read וּבְצִרֹת, which agrees with the Chaldee ; and is most likely to be the true reading. See Isa. xlviii. 6.

5.—That are come to make war on the part of the Chaldeans] בָּאוּ is thus used with וְהַמְלִיחֹת for its subject, Ch. xxxii. 24. But כְּשָׂרִים must not be rendered, “against the Chaldeans,” for it is evident those instruments of war were not employed against the Chaldeans, but in their service against the besieged. Therefore כְּשָׂרִים must either signify “on the part of the Chaldeans ;” See Ch. li. 59. or else כְּשָׂרִים may be left by mistake for כְּשָׂרִים, the initial כ being lost (as it often happens) in the same letter terminating the preceding word.

6. Behold, I will make it perfectly sound and whole] The antecedent to לֵךְ is clearly מַחְזֵקִי, ver. 5. The Vulg. and Chald. render as if they had read לֵחֶם ; but the LXX. and Syr. confirm the present reading, which is found in all the collated MSS. and Editions, except one MS. which reads לֵךְ.

Ibid.—and will heal them] For וּרְפָאתָם forty two MSS. and nine Editions read וּרְפָאתָם, in conformity with all the ancient versions. The antecedent of the pronoun must be sought in the next verse ; namely, the captivity of Judah and Israel. See note on ver. 2.

Ibid. I will also grant their prayer for peace and truth] עֲתָר signifies to *pray in a devout fervent manner*. Hence עֲתָרָה may well be construed a *devout and fervent prayer* ; and to manifest to any one his petition seems to imply the granting of it. I have therefore rendered וְאֵמֶת וּגְלִיתִי לָהֶם עֲתָרָה שְׁלוֹם, “I will also grant their prayer for peace and truth ; or, will shew them the blessings they have prayed for.”

7. And I will build them.—] For וּבְנֵיתִים thirty MSS. and five Editions read more correctly וּבְנֵיתִים.

Ibid.—that I procure unto them] All the ancient versions render

as if they had read לִרְחֹם instead of לִרְחֹ, and there is one MS. that does so.

13.—and in the cites of the plain] Twenty MSS. read וּבְעָרָי, and the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. likewise express the conjunction. For the divisions here enumerated, see Ch. xvii. 26. and Note there.

Ibid.—According to the direction of him that numbereth] Our English Translation is, “under the hands of him that telleth them;” as if עַל-יָדֵי meant the same as מִתַּחַת דְּשִׁבְטָא, Lev. xxvii. 32. But *passing under the rod* means only their being numbered, the shepherd striking every sheep with his rod or crook, as it passes out of the fold, and so counting them. But the expression here made use of seems to imply, that the sheep should not stray about at random, but pass *according to the direction* of a shepherd, who, in numbering them as they come out of the fold, at the same time points out to them with his hands the way they are to take. See Note on Ch. v. 31. in Appendix.

14.—concerning the house of Israel, and concerning the house of Judah] אֶל-בֵּית-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל-בֵּית יְהוּדָה—These two prepositions אֶל and עַל seem to be nearly of the same force; and we often find them applied in the same sentence, as if the variation was accounted a matter of elegance. Here undoubtedly no difference can be conceived between them. Some MSS. however affect an uniformity; two for אֶל reading עַל, and on the other hand, four, perhaps five, for עַל substitute אֶל.

15.—a branch of righteousness] After צֶמַח צְדִיקָה (three MSS. read צֶמַח צְדִיק) twenty one MSS. and four Editions add the words וְדָשְׁכִיל וְמֶלֶךְ מֶלֶךְ, “and a king shall reign and prosper,” as Ch. xxiii. 5. The same is found in the Syr. and Arab. versions.

16. And this is he, whom JEHOVAH shall call OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS] This is the strict grammatical translation of the words of the text. The ancient versions seem to have been made from the parallel passage, Ch. xxiii. 6. where however the words differ extremely, though they amount to the same sense. See the Note there. Three MSS. read here, שְׁמוֹ הוּא, and one of these omit לִרְחֹ. It must be observed, that the רָ in לִרְחֹ is not the feminine affix, but the masculine after the Chaldee form; which frequently occurs.

17. There shall not be a failure in the line of David of one sitting, &c.] From the Babylonish captivity to the coming of Christ, David was without a successor of his family sitting upon the throne of Judah or Israel, in any sense whatsoever. And from the destruction of Jerusalem to the present time, the Jews have had neither a king nor a regular priesthood belonging to their nation. So that hitherto there has been a failure and interruption both in the royal line of David, and in the sacerdotal one of Levi. A plain proof that the prophecy alludes not to any time that is already past, but respects what is to come. It is true indeed, that in a spiritual sense the kingdom of Christ, the son of David, has been for some time established over those whom the Apostle calls “the Israel of God,” (Gal. vi. 16.) and the “children of Abraham,” (Gal. iii. 7.) meaning thereby all true believers, whether

of the Jews or of the Gentiles. And it is true also, that in the church of Christ there hath been a constant and uninterrupted succession of persons appointed to perform the public offices of religion in the room of, although not taken out of the family of, the priests the Levites. And the perpetuity of this kingdom and this priesthood, is, I know, in the opinion of many learned expositors, looked upon as a full and authentic completion of the intention of this prophecy. This however seems to be spiritualizing too far, when the case admits of a more direct and literal interpretation. The days, it is evident, are not yet arrived; though they certainly will come, for the performance of God's good promise concerning the restoration of the house of Israel and the house of Judah under Christ, **THEIR RIGHTEOUSNESS**. Admitting this, and that all the families of Israel shall again be re-established in their own possessions, what improbability is there, that the two families of David and Levi may actually revert also to their ancient privileges, subject only to the supreme authority of the Messiah, and continue to enjoy them, as it is here expressly declared, in uninterrupted succession to the end of the world?

18.—and burning meat-offerings—] The verb **מִקְטִיר**, which properly signifies *burning intense*, is not unfitly here applied; because part of every meat offering was covered with frankincense, and burned upon the altar for a memorial of sweet savour unto God. See Lev. ii. 1, 2, &c.—It is not necessary however to suppose, that precisely the same sacrifices shall continue to be offered in the Christian Church, which are prescribed by the Mosaic law; but, as that law is abrogated, we may fairly understand those sacrifices figuratively to denote the offices of a more spiritual worship, substituted in their stead.

20. So that they be not daily and nightly in their season] Our Translators render, “and that there should not be day and night in their season.” But in this case we should read **יוֹם**, and not **יוֹמָם**. **יוֹמָם** is the adverb *by day*, or *daily*; and **וּלְיָלִיָּהּ** signifies, *die et nocte*, *by day and by night*, or *daily and nightly*, that is, *always*, or *continually*. So that the true construction of the words is, “that my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, be, or hold, not continually in their season.” See ver. 25.

21.—that they shall not minister unto me] Here **מִשְׁרָתִי** seems to be the infinitive verb with the affix **י**, and the preposition **כִּי** prefixed; answering to **מִשְׁרָתִי** used just before. But in the next verse **מִשְׁרָתִי** followed by **מִתִּי** is the participle plural in *Pihel*.

24. The two families which JEHOVAH hath chosen] It is plain from ver. 26. that the two families here meant are those of Jacob and David; though some have supposed the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah; others the royal and sacerdotal families of David and Levi, to be intended.

25. If my covenant be not, &c.] In this verse the Vulg. and Syr. both read **וְדָקוֹת**, but the conjunction is not found in any of the collated MSS. or Editions. The same versions agree in expressing the negative **לֹא** but once; but Vulg. omits it after **אֵם**, Syr. before **שְׁמִתִּי**.

But the text needs no alteration; all that is necessary being to extend the influence of **אם**, *if*, to the latter clause as well as to the former. It would perhaps be more clear, if we read **אם ויום**, but the *Aryndeton* appears to be often matter of choice. The covenant is that abovementioned of the day and of the night, ver. 20. which there is understood to be daily and nightly, that is, perpetual without interruption; and the ordinances of heaven and earth are the stated order of things in both, such as the system of numberless stars in the heavens, and the unmeasurable sand of the sea, ver. 22. all which God claims to be of his ordering and appointment.

26. But I will reverse their captivity---] For **אשוב** nineteen MSS. and three Editions read with the Masora **אש**. But it is questionable at least whether **אשוב** be not as proper. See Note on Ch. xxxii. 40. ---These words, we may observe, are the regular inference of a Syllogism, the minor of which is suppressed, but may be thus supplied---*"But my covenant is daily and nightly, and I have appointed these ordinances, Therefore I will not cast off the seed of Jacob, &c. but I will reverse their captivity, and will have mercy upon them."*

CHAP. XXXVIII.

THIS Chapter (to which are subjoined the four last verses of Chap. xxxix. on account of their obvious connexion) contains the last transaction in which Jeremiah was prophetically concerned before the taking of Jerusalem. The princes of Judah offended with Jeremiah for repeating to the people who visited him in the court of the prison, the message he was charged with, Ch. xxi. 9, 10. caused him to be cast into a deep and miry dungeon; v. 1—6. Ebed-melech obtains an order from the king, and takes him up out of it; v. 7---13. The king consults with him in private; he seeks to persuade the king to give himself up to the king of Babylon's officers, as the only means of safety to himself, and of preserving the city from destruction; v. 14.—23. The king assures to him his life, but requires him not to divulge the secret of his conference to the princes; who inquire about it, but receive an evasive answer; and Jeremiah remains in the court of the prison; v. 24—28. The piety of Ebed-melech is rewarded with a promise of personal safety amidst the ensuing public calamities. Ch. xxxix. 15—18.

1.---used to speak---] This is the proper sense of **אמר**, the conjugation *Pihel* specially denoting the diligent or repeated performing of an action.

2.---and by famine---] Six MSS. read **וברעב**, as found in the Text, Ch. xxi. 9. The LXX, Syr. and Vulgate also express the conjunction.

Ibid.---and by pestilence] The common Editions of the LXX. totally omit **ובדבר**; but in the MS. Pachom. we find, **και εν θανατω**. Aquila and Theodotion express the same. Drusius also cites from one of the Greek interpreters, though without a name, **και εν λοιμω**.

Ibid---shall live---] Here also, as in Ch. xxi. 9. the Masoretes propose to read **וְחַיִּי** instead of **יְחַיִּי**, and have the concurrence of fifteen, perhaps sixteen, MSS. and two Editions, with the margin of the Bible of Felix Pratensis. But how properly soever the **ו** may have been prefixed there, the use of it seems to be superseded here by the extraordinary addition of **וְחַיִּי** at the end of the verse. It may be observed frequently, that in the repetition of a message, or command, the repeater is not always scrupulous in adhering to the precise form of words, provided there be no essential alteration in the sense and general meaning. This will appear on a further comparison between this verse and Ch. xxi. 9. in the latter of which we find **וְנָפַל** and **עַל יְכֻם** which are not here; as on the contrary, **וְחַיִּי**, which is here, is not to be found there.---The meaning of the words, "and his life shall be unto him as spoil," see explained in Note on Ch. xlv. 5.

3.---the army of the king of Babylon] Four MSS. omit **חַיִּי**, in conformity with Ch. xxi. 10. but it is expressed in all the ancient versions.

4. Let this man, we pray thee, be put to death] Seven MSS. and two ancient Editions omit **אֶת** before **חַיִּי**.

Ibid.---he weakeneth---] Three MSS. and two Editions read **מַרְפֵּחַ**, which is certainly right, and not **מַרְפֵּא**, which comes from **רָפָא**, *to heal*, and suits not with this place. The gutturals **א** and **ח** are often substituted by mistake for each other, and the contrary mistake to this is made in reading **לְחַרְפֵּחַ** instead of **לְחַרְפֵּא**, Ch. xix. 11.

5.---for the king can carry no point in competition with you] The king evidently speaks this in disgust with the princes for endeavouring to frustrate his clemency. He had once rescued Jeremiah out of their hands, and taken him under his royal protection. But his prerogative, he tells them, was likely to avail but little, when opposed by their obstinate and repeated importunities. The power was in reality theirs, and not his.

6.---the king's son] See note on Ch. xxxvi. 26.

Ibid.---in the dungeon there was no water, but mire] This account of the dungeon accords with what was mentioned in the Note on Ch. xxxvii. 16. For if the dungeon was in the open court, and left open like a well at top, there being no other way of giving it air and light, the falling of rain mixing with the earth below would occasion mud in a place, where the sun's rays could not reach to dry up the moisture.

7.---the king was sitting in the gate of Benjamin] No doubt he sat there to hear the complaints of the people, and to administer justice; the courts for that purpose being usually held in the gates of the city. See Bishop Lowth's Note on Isa. xxix. 21.

9.---when there is no longer any bread in the city] Our translators render, "for there is no more bread in the city;" but the city does not appear to be reduced as yet to that extremity; for when that came to be the case, the king fled and the city was taken; see Ch. lii. 6, 7. But Ebed-melech supposed with reason, that when the bread failed,

Jeremiah must be starved with hunger in the dungeon; for he would of course be neglected, and have it not in his power to make those shifts for subsistence, which persons at liberty might avail themselves of.

10.—Take along with thee] בִּידֶךָ—Literally, “in thine hand.” See the like phrase 1 Sam. xvi. 2.

11.—torn rags---] For מִסְחָבוֹת the Masoretes with five MSS. read מִסְחָבוֹת. מִסְחָב signifies *to tear*, as מָלַח does to *grow rotten by wearing*.

14.—into the third entrance---] מִבֹּיָא properly signifies *an avenue* or *entrance* to any place. It appears, that from the king's house to the temple, Solomon formed a communication, which was called “the king's ascent by which he went up to the house of JEHOVAH,” and was of so excellent a structure, that it is reckoned as one of the things that raised the queen of Sheba's astonishment at Solomon's wisdom and magnificence; 1 Kings x. 5. This we find to have extended to one of the western gates of the temple, called *Shallecheth*, which is said to have been “by the causeway of the going up,” or “ascent,” abovementioned, 1 Chron. xxvi. 16. Now this I conclude to have been *the first entrance*. From the gate *Shallecheth* there must have been a passage the whole length of the south side of the building of the sanctuary, extending straight forward, till the king faced about to the left, in order to go to his place in the court, where he is said to have stood before the altar; 2 Chron. vi. 12. From the gate *Shallecheth* therefore to this turning I look upon to have been *the second entrance*, and the same that is called “the king's entry without,” 2 Kings xvi. 18. *The third entrance* then I conceive to be the continuance of the same approach from the turning abovementioned, till it terminated with “the brasen scaffold on which Solomon stood in the midst of the court, right over against the altar, in the presence of the whole congregation of Israel;” 2 Chron. vi. 12, 13. This is expressly called מִבֹּיָא, “the entrance,” where “the king stood at (or, upon) his pillar,” 2 Chron. xxiii. 13. the pillar being most probably the support, on which the scaffold, or pulpit, rested. This *entrance* I am also inclined to think is that which is called מִוֶּסֶךְ הַשַּׁבָּת, “the covert of the sabbath,” 2 Kings xvi. 18. being covered over for the king's accommodation, when he appeared in the temple on the sabbath day, at the head of the congregation of Israel. To this, as the most retired place, king Zedekiah may be understood to have brought the prophet, in order to confer with him with the greatest privacy. For the better understanding of what is here laid down, I would refer the reader to the Plan of Solomon's temple in Ancient Univ. Hist. Vol. I. Book i. Ch. 7.

16.—who made us—] אֵת אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה.—The Masoretes omit אֵת, and so do fifteen MSS. and three Editions.

Ibid.—of these men that seek thy life] הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר מְבַקְשִׁים—The ancient Bodl. MS. No. 1. instead of הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר reads הַמְבַקְשִׁים; three other MSS. also read הַמְבַקְשִׁים, and one מְבַקְשִׁים with a rasure of a letter at the beginning. This last, and one of the three, omit אֵת אֲשֶׁר.

17.---the God of hosts---] Six MSS. omit the word אֱלֹהִי before צְבָאוֹת; nor do any of the ancient versions appear to countenance more than according to the usual form, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת.

Ibid.---But thou shalt live---] For וְחַיָּתָה before אַחֲרָיָה, seven, perhaps eight, MSS. and one in the margin, read וְחַיָּיתָה; and seven others, perhaps eight, and two Editions, read וְחַיָּיתָהּ.

22.---they have set thy foot fast in the mire, and are turned away back] Twenty four MSS. and the margin of Van der Hooght's Bible read רַגְלֶיךָ. The Syr. and Vulg. and the Alex. Edit. of the LXX. also express the word in the plural number. But the LXX. according to the Vatican Edition, and Chald. confirm the present reading in the singular. Our Translators have rendered, "Thy feet are sunk in the mire," according to the punctuation of הִטְבְּעוּ, which makes it passive in *Hophal*. But it is rather to be taken in *Hiphil*, and referred to the king's "familiar friends" as the subject of the verb, who, having brought him into difficulties, went off, and left him in the lurch. This was particularly true of his Egyptian allies. See Ch. xxxvii. 7.

26. I offered humbly my supplication before the king] Literally, "I let fall or prostrated my petition." See note on Ch. xxxvi. 7.

27.---for the conversation was not heard] וְדַבָּרִי I consider to be the conversation that had passed between the king and Jeremiah; which no one having heard but they two, the princes had nothing to object against what Jeremiah told them.

28.---and he was [there] when Jerusalem was taken] Three MSS. for וְחַיָּתָה read וְחַיָּי, which according to the rule of the *Vau* conversive would be right. Some Copies begin the next Chapter with these words. The Syr. omits them entirely. The LXX. express וְחַיָּי at the beginning of Ch. xxxix. but omit the three words that follow in the Hebrew.

CHAP. XXXIX.

16.---I am about to bring---] Twenty one MSS. and three Editions read with the Masora מְבִיאִי instead of מְבִי. The מ is lost both here and Ch. xix. 15. in the same letter, which begins the following word.

Ibid.---and they shall be before thy face in that day] That is, thou shalt see the accomplishment of them.

18.---but thy life shall be unto thee as spoil] See note on Ch. xlv. 5.

THIS Chapter begins with an account of the taking of Jerusalem, and relates the flight of Zedekiah, and the particulars of his punishment, after that he was taken and brought before the king of Babylon; and also the burning of the city, and removal of the people, a few of the meanest only excepted, to Babylon, v. 1—10. Jeremiah is re-

leased, and kindly treated, in consequence of a special charge from Nebuchadrezzar, v. 11—14.

2. In the eleventh year---] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. place a conjunction at the beginning of this verse; but it does not appear in any of the collated MSS. and Editions.

3.---the gate of the center.] The city of Jerusalem stood upon two hills, Sion to the south, and Acra to the north, with a deep valley between them. "The gate of the center," as the term seems plainly to import, was a gate of communication in the middle of the valley between the two parts of the city, sometimes called *the higher* and *the lower city*. The Chaldeans entered the city on the north side by a breach in the walls, and immediately rushing forward, and posting themselves in this gate, in the very heart or center of the city, they became thereby masters at will of the whole. Zedekiah with his troops, perceiving this, fled out of the opposite gate on the south side.

Ibid.---Nergal-sharetzar Samgar, Nebo-sarsechim Rab-saris, Nergal-sharetzar Rab-mag] As Nergal-sharetzar occurs twice, the next word seems to be an addition to the name by way of distinguishing the persons. And I am inclined to think that רב-טבים, סמגר, and רב-מג, were all titles of office, as we find רב-טבחים, which we render, "captain of the guards," or it might be, "commander in chief of the forces," was the title of Nebu-zaradan. What tends to confirm this is, that we find afterwards ver. 13. רב-טבים and רב-מג placed after נבו-שובן and נרגל-שראצר without a conjunction intervening, in the same manner as רב-טבחים follows נבו-זראדן, although the conjunction ו precedes both נבו-שובן and נרגל-שראצר. But if *Rab-saris* be a title of office (the Syr. supposes it to be *master of the eunuchs*) then *Nebo-sarsechim* here, and *Nebu-shazban* ver. 13. mean probably the same person, notwithstanding the difference of the names. Nor is it to be wondered at, that there should be such a variation in the name of a subject, when the name of the king himself is varied in like manner, being sometimes found *Nebuchadnezzar*, and sometimes *Nebuchadrezzar*; not to mention a number of other differences that occur in the different copies. *Nergal*, was an idol worshipped by the Cuthites, 2 Kings xvii. 30. *Nebo* a Babylonish Deity, Isa. xlvi. 1. And we find it usual to prefix the name of those idols to the names of persons of rank; as *Nebuchadnezzar*, *Nebo-nassar* *Nebu-zaradan*, *Neriglissar*, or *Nergal-assur*, who was one of Nebuchadnezzar's successors; *Bel-shazzar*, another of them; and Daniel the Jew had the name of *Bel-teshazzar* given him, "after the name of my god," says Nebuchadnezzar speaking of him Dan. iv. 8.---I conceive therefore that we have in this verse the names of three only of Nebuchadnezzar's captains, with their titles of distinction, Nergal-sharetzar Samgar, Nebo-sarsechim Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharetzar Rab-mag; and again ver. 13. the names and titles of three, Nebu-zaradan Rab-tebachim, or "Captain of the guards," Nebu-shazban Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharetzar Rab-mag. What offices *Samgar*, *Rab-saris*, and *Rab-mag* denote, I pretend not to determine.

4.—through the gate between the two walls] We find mention made of two walls, one exterior to the other, 2 Chron. xxxii. 5. Probably between these two walls might have been a private postern, through which the king and his followers might slip out unperceived by the besiegers, who surrounded the city, and undoubtedly kept a strict watch at the principal gates.

Ibid.—and they went forth—] For נצח seven MSS. and the first printed Edition read נצח; and in one MS. a letter is erased at the end of נצח. The Syr. Theodotion, Vulg. and the Arab. MS. Oxon. all represent the verb in the plural.

5.—and he proceeded judicially against him] See Note on Ch. i. 16. Zedekiah had sworn allegiance to the king of Babylon, and was therefore liable to be tried and condemned as a rebel and traitor. See 2 Chron. xxxvi. 13. Ezek. xvii. 16, 18.

8.—and the houses of the people] Literally, “and the house of the people,” where בית “the people” may denote every private citizen or subject taken distributively; so that as the community is made up of king and subject, this expression, “the house of the king, and the house of the people, or subject,” is equivalent to “all the houses of Jerusalem” without distinction. See Ch. lii. 13.

9. And the residue of the people, &c.] Two sorts of persons are here distinguished, 1. The residue of the people that remained in the city, when it was taken; 2. Those who had deserted during the siege; and these together are included under one general name, “even the residue of the people; those that remained.” Compare Ch. lii. 15.

12.—but according as—] וכן is omitted by the Masora, and by sixteen MSS. and one Edition. Yet וכן seems full as proper as כן singly.

14.—to conduct him home] It appears from Ch. xl. 1. that Jeremiah had been first carried off to Ramah with the rest of the captives.

CHAP. XL.

THE five following Chapters contain a particular account of what passed in the land of Judah from the taking of Jerusalem to the retreat of the people into Egypt; and the prophecies of Jeremiah concerning them there.

1.—HAD TAKEN HIM AND LET HIM GO] Most interpreters have understood נחמו of Nebuzaradan's having first taken Jeremiah as a captive unto Ramah. But if the order of the sentence be well observed, as well as the more common use of the verb נחם, it will, I think, rather appear, that those words relate to his *taking*, or having him brought to him, in order to give him his discharge.

3. And JEHOVAH hath come and done—] יבא may as well be the future in *Kal* as in *Hiphil*; and God is frequently said to *come* in per-

son to execute his purposes. See Exod. xx. 24. And indeed the word *visit* implies *coming*, either to shew mercy, or to inflict punishment.

Ibid.---hath this thing---] Twenty six MSS. three Editions, and the Babylonish Talmud, read דורבּר ; in two other MSS. a letter is erased in the place of דר.

4.---thy hands---] Twenty three, perhaps twenty four, MSS. and eight Editions, read ידיך instead of ירך The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. also express the plural number.

Ibid.---and while it continueth so, it shall not be set aside] לא-שוב ויעודנו---Interpreters seem much perplexed about the explanation of these words; but by connecting them at the end of this verse with the words preceding, the sense, I think, becomes perfectly clear. ויעודנו, "and while it is still" good and right in thine eyes, לא-ישוב, "it shall not turn back," or "be set aside;" no one shall compel thee to take a different course.

7.---of those who were not carried away, &c.] In two MSS. for מאשר we read only אשר, which seems more agreeable to the LXX. and other ancient versions.

8.---and Johanan and Jonathan---] The LXX. have only, καὶ Ἰωαννῆς καὶ Ἰωάννης; save that in MS. Pachom. after Καρμῆ, or rather Καρμῆ, follows καὶ Ἰωάννης. Two MSS. omit וינתן, and it is erased in two others. One MS. omits וירחן. Thirteen MSS. and one Edition read בן for בני; and the Chald. reads בר in the singular number.

Ibid.---Ephai---] The Masora reads עיפי for עופי, and so do fifteen, perhaps sixteen, MSS. and three Editions. In two MSS. and the first printed Edition, we read only עפי. But the LXX. rather countenance עופי, rendering it ἰωφ; in the Alexandr. Edition ὠφρ, and in MS. Pachom. ὠφρ.

Ibid.---and Jezaniah the son of [Hoshaiah] the Maachathite] דומעכתי is doubtless a patronymic, and probably bespeaks a descendant of Maachah, Caleb's concubine, 1 Chron ii. 48. The name of Jezaniah's father, appears to have been *Hoshaiah*, Ch. xlii. 1. and it has most probably been lost out of the text in this place.

9. Fear not to serve the Chaldeans] The ancient Bodleian MS, No. 1. has a singular reading here, מעבור for מעבור, "fear not to come over to the Chaldeans." This makes a very good sense; but the text needs no alteration.

10.---to stand before the Chaldeans---] That is, to be ready to receive and obey their commands.

16.---By no means do this thing] For תעש the Masora reads תעשור, with the concurrence of twenty one MSS. and three Editions.

C H A P. XLI.

5.--and from Shiloh] Seven MSS. with all the ancient versions prefix the conjunction **ו**. *Shiloh* is differently written in the Hebrew copies, **שִׁלֹה**, **שִׁלֹח**, **שִׁלֹי**, **שִׁלֹח**.

Ibid.--having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves] All these signs of mourning and great affliction (see Job i. 20. and Notes on Ch. xvi. 6) seem to have been manifested on account of the calamity, which had befallen the city and temple.

Ibid.--to bring to the house of JEHOVAH] Though the temple was destroyed, it may be presumed that the people continued to offer up sacrifices and offerings on the spot where it stood, as long as they remained in the land; for we find this began to be their practice soon after their return, before the temple was rebuilt. See Ezra iii. 2, 3, &c.

7.--massacred them at the pit] Our English Translators have rendered, "slew them [and cast them] into the midst of the pit," adding the words, *and cast them*, which are not in the Hebrew, in order to make out the sense. And Mr Lowth in his Note on the place undertakes to justify the Ellipsis as agreeable to the Hebrew idiom. Others have supposed that the verb **וַיִּשְׁלִיךְ**, or **וַיִּשְׁלִיכֵם**, has been lost out of the text, it being expressed in the Syr. and also in the Complutensian Edition of the LXX. by *καὶ ἐπέκλειν*, in the MS. Pachom. by *καὶ ἐξεψύε*, and in one other of the Greek versions, cited in the Hexapla, by *καὶ ἐξεψύον αὐτούς*.--But on the other hand it may be observed, that **תֵּן** is not expressed either by the LXX. or Syr. and I am therefore inclined to believe that, instead of an omission, we have here an undue repetition of this word **תֵּן** after **לֵבֵן**, which was occasioned by reading **חֲצִיר לֵבֵן** just before. In this case by rejecting **תֵּן**, and reading only **לֵבֵן**, we may render, "at, or, near the pit." So we read 2 Kings x. 14. **וַיִּשְׁחָטוּם לֵבֵן בּוֹר בֵּית-עֶקֶד**, "and slew them at the pit of the shearing house." So also 1 Maccab. vii. 19. a Book said to have been translated out of Hebrew, we find, *καὶ ἐψύον αὐτούς ἐν τῷ φρενὶ τοῦ μεγάρου*, which our English Translators have also rendered, "and when he had slain them, [he cast them] into the great pit;" but in the Hebrew original it was doubtless as we suppose it here, **וַיִּשְׁחָטוּם לֵבֵן בּוֹר**.

9. Now the pit--] **בוֹר** signifies a Bason, Cistern, or Reservoir; a large pit for receiving rain water, which Asa, who built and fortified Mizpeh at the time he was at war with Baasha king of Israel (1 Kings xv. 22.) caused to be made in the midst of the city, in order that the people might not be in want of so necessary an article in case of a siege. Reservoirs of this kind were much in use in Palestina, as Jerome tells us in his Commentary upon Amos iv. 7, 8. His words are, "In his enim locis, in quibus nunc degimus, præter parvos fontes, omnes cisternarum aquæ sunt." And Josephus testifies the advantage of them to the besieged, when he tells us, that when Masada was reduced to the

greatest distress for want of water, it was relieved by a fall of rain in the night, which filled all the reservoirs. Ant. Lib. xiv. cap. 14. Edit. Hudson. Each private family seems also to have had one of these pits or reservoirs for its own use; "Drink ye every one the waters of his own cistern;" בורו, "his pit," or "reservoir," says Rabshakeh to the people of Jerusalem, Isa. xxxvi. 16.

Ibid—along with Gedaliah] ביד, "by the hand," or "side" of him. So ביד is used Ch. xxxviii. 16. See Note there.

12.—the great waters that are in Gibeon] Called "the pool, or lake, of Gibeon," 2 Sam. ii. 13.

16.—after the murder that had been committed upon Gedaliah] I take דרכו to be here the infinitive in *Hophal*.

17.—in Geruth-Chimham] For כמורה twenty six MSS. and four Editions read with the Masora, כמרה. *Geruth-Chimham* signifies, *the habitation of Chimham*, and was so called, as the Chaldee Paraphrase informs us, from its having been given by David to Chimham the son of Barzillai the Gileadite, 2 Sam. xix. 38, 40. But I have followed the example of the LXX. in rendering the whole as a proper name, affixed to the place from a circumstance that belonged to it so long ago.

CHAP. XLII.

2.—Let - - - our supplication come humbly before thee---] See note on Ch. xxxvi. 7.

6.—to whom we send thee] For ננו fifty seven, perhaps sixty seven, MSS. and six Editions, read with the Masora, ננחנו.

10. If ye will indeed remain] All the ancient versions agree in rendering שוב תשובו, as both from the verb ישוב, although the infinitive of ישוב according to the anomaly is שבת; it is however found ישוב written defectively for ישוב, 1 Sam. xx. 5. according to the form of regular verbs; and may either have dropt the י by accident here, or it may have been taken away by *Apharesis*. But I see no reason why שוב may not be considered as the gerund of ישוב, *to return*, and so be rendered with תשובו, "if going back ye will remain"—that is, "if ye will go back to your former habitations, and remain in this land." Only it must be confessed that the usual Hebrew Idiom is the repetition of the same verb.

12.—and shall settle you in your own land] Both the Syr. and Vulg. seem to have considered דוש'ב as written defectively for דוש'ב; and it most probably was so; for the persons addressed are supposed not to have left their own land; the king of Babylon therefore might more probably be said to let them remain, or to confirm their settlement, there, than to bring them back to a place which they had never quitted.

16.—And the thing shall be] That is, if ye shall carry your resolve into execution.—Compare Ch. lii. 3. Isa. vii. 7. xiv. 24. where also the

verb is used in the feminine, as it is here. On the contrary, the verb is always masculine, when the design is to express the certainty of a prediction taking place, as announced in words that follow ; as may be seen in places without number.

17. And it shall be that all the men] Instead of וְיָדְעוּ the ancient Bodl. MS. No. 1. reads וְיָדָו ; which is more agreeable to the rule of the ו conversive. But perhaps we ought rather to read, וְיָדְעוּ.

Ibid.—and by famine—] Six MSS. read וּבְרָעָב, and so the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. But the LXX. omit וּבְרָבָר, as Ch. xxxviii. 2. which however is expressed in MS. Pachom. by *και ου θανατω*, as it is also by Theodotion. See again, ver. 22.

19. The word of JEHOVAH - - - - - ye shall know assuredly] וְדָבָר is not a verb here, as our English Translators have rendered it, but a noun, and governed in the accusative by יָדַע תְּדַעוּ. The meaning is, “Ye cannot plead ignorance of the divine command, for I have solemnly declared it to you this day.”

20. Surely ye have practised deceit against your own souls] Twenty two MSS. and five Editions read with the Masora דַּחַתְעִיתֶם, which is certainly right. The deceit they had practised, the prophet tells them, would certainly turn to their own disadvantage.

22.—and by famine] Thirteen MSS. and three Editions read here, וּבְרָעָב, as do also the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. Here also וּבְרָבָר, which is omitted in the common Editions of the LXX. is expressed in MS. Pachom. by the words *και ου θανατω*, and so likewise in the versions of Aquila and Theodotion. See above on v. 17.

CH A P. XLIII.

2.—Azariah the son of Hoshaiab] The Syr. here reads “Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiab,” as Ch. xlii. 1. and there can be little doubt that the same name is intended here, the variation being no greater than is to be found frequently in the use of proper names in Scripture. The name יִזְנְיָהּ is written יִמְזַנְיָהּ 2 Kings xxv. 23. from which עֲזַרְיָהּ may be found without farther deflection than the usage of the prophet in other instances may seem to justify. *Coniah* and *Jeconiah* are the same name, without and with the י at the beginning ; and so are *Nebuchadnezzar* and *Nebuchadrezzar*, where the נ and ר are used indiscriminately. With the like variations יִמְזַנְיָהּ becomes אֲזַרְיָהּ ; and the א and ע are but different modes of aspiration, between which the modern Jews at least make so little distinction, as to express them both *nudo vocalis sonp*. Hence we may conclude יִמְזַנְיָהּ יִזְנְיָהּ, and עֲזַרְיָהּ to be but different enunciations of one and the same name.

7.—Tahpanhes—] That is, Daphnæ Pelusiacæ. See Note on Ch. ii. 16.

9.—In the sight of some men of Judah] Literally, “in the sight of men Jews ;” which implies indefinitely *some* of that nation ; not, as our present translation runs, “the men of Judah,” as if the presence of

all the emigrants was required; for in that case the reading would at least have been, **וְהָאֲנָשִׁים הַיְּהוּדִים**, with the definite article prefixed.

10.—and he shall spread forth his splendor over them] I cannot find any ground for rendering **שְׁפִירוֹ** (so the Masora reads with the concurrence of fourteen, perhaps sixteen, MSS. and three Editions, instead of **שְׁפִירוֹ**) “his tent” or “pavilion;” for **שֹׁפֵר** signifies no more than *beautiful, elegant, splendid*; and therefore I understand the words here to denote, that Nebuchadrezzar should there display all the splendor and magnificence of his royal state; or if something more particular be intended, it would be, that as he sate upon his throne, his royal robes should spread themselves, and cover the place where those stones lay. The LXX. according to the Vatican Edit. render **τὰ ὄπλα ἐπ’ αὐτοῦ**. The Alexandr. Edition, and MS. Pachom. **τὰ ὄπλα αὐτοῦ**.

11. And he shall come—] Fifteen MSS. and two Editions with the Masora for **וַיָּבֹא** read **וָבֹא**.

12. And I will kindle a fire---] The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. render the verb in the third person, as if they had read **וַיִּצִיחַ**; but it is not so found in any of the collated MSS. And the same phrase occurs in several other passages of this prophet, Ch. xvii. 27. xxi. 14. xlix. 27. l. 32. in all which God speaks of himself as the agent or prime mover; as he does here, no doubt with design to inculcate this necessary and important lesson, that in all that is performed here below, both the plan is his, and the power of carrying it into execution, whatever other instruments he may choose to employ as the subordinate ministers of his providence. The other verbs which follow are to be referred to Nebuchadrezzar, as acting under the divine commission and authority.

Ibid.—he shall clothe himself with the land of Egypt---] This expression seems to denote, that he should appropriate to himself, and carry off the riches of the land of Egypt, or, as we say, load himself with the spoils of it, and go off as quietly, as a shepherd wraps his garment about him, and goes about his business. See Ezek. xxix. 19.

13.—the house of the sun] The LXX. render **בֵּית שֶׁשׁ** *Helio-
polis*, that is, *the city of the Sun*, where, as we learn from Herodot. Lib. ii. c. 59. the Egyptians celebrated a grand festival annually in honour of the Sun, who had a temple there. But **בֵּית שֶׁשׁ** seems rather to mean the temple itself, in which the images of their Deity were erected.

CHAP. XLIV.

1. AT MIGDOL, &c.] Migdol is mentioned Exod. xiv. 2. as situate near the Red Sea. But I do not take this to be the place here intended. *Migdol* properly signifies *a tower*, and may in all probability have been given as a name to different cities in Egypt, where there was a distinguished object of that kind. The city of *Magdulus* is mentioned

by Herodotus, Hecateus, and others, and placed by Antoninus at the entrance of Egypt from Palestine, about twelve miles from Pelusium. This was too far distant from the Red Sea, to be in the route of the Israelites; but its situation in the neighbourhood of Tahpanhes, or Daphnæ, and its distance from Judea, favour the supposition of its being the *Migdol* here spoken of. For then, as Bochart observes, we shall find the four places mentioned exactly in the order of their respective distances from that country; first, Migdol, or Magdolus; secondly, Tahpanhes, or Daphnæ; thirdly, Noph, or Memphis; and lastly, the district of Pathros, or Thebais. See Bochart Phaleg. Lib. iv. cap. 27.

3.—they, ye and your fathers] One MS. omits **והם**, and six MSS. omit **אחם**. But the text, I conceive, is in no need of any alteration, the words, “they, ye and your fathers,” being added, in order to specify who *they* were, who are said to have committed the wickedness, “they,” namely “ye and your fathers.” Two MSS. read **ואחם**, “even ye, &c.”

6.—and a waste—] Eight MSS read **ולשמהם** with the **ו** prefixed; and all the ancient versions express the copulative.

7.—against your own souls] Twenty eight MSS. and three Editions, besides the London Polyglott, read **נפשתיכם** instead of **נפשותכם**; and seven MSS. and one Edition **נפשותיכם**.

9. and the wickednesses of the princes thereof—] It is very evident that the present reading, **נשיו**, “his wives,” must be wrong. The true reading seems to be pointed out by the LXX. who render, **καὶ τῶν ἀναγχαζομένων τῶν ἀρχόντων καὶ τῶν ὑποκόμω**. That the wickednesses of the princes or subordinate magistrates should follow the mention of the wickednesses of the kings, is very natural; see ver. 17, 21. It is therefore not improbable, that for **נשיו**, the original word was **שריו**, or perhaps **נשיאיו**, which being contractedly written **נשאיו**, might have been corrupted into **נשיו**. Two MSS. omit **ואת רעותיכם** **נשיו** **ואת רעותיכם**; one MS. omits **ואת נשיו** **ואת רעותיכם**; and three MSS. omit **ואת רעות נשיו**.

12.—they shall fall by the sword, by famine shall they be consumed] So I render conformably to the received reading of the text. But twenty eight, perhaps twenty nine, MSS. and one Edition, for **ברעב** read **וברעב**; and all the ancient versions express the copulative **ו**.

Ibid.—and an astonishment] Here also thirty MSS. and six Editions read **ולשמור**, in conformity with the ancient versions. See Ch. xlii. 18.

13. and with famine, and with pestilence] Here again all the ancient versions with thirteen MSS, read **וברעב**, with the copulative. Here also **וברעב** is omitted in the Vatican Edition of the LXX. but expressed in the Alexandrian, and in MS. Pachom. by the words **καὶ ἐν σφοδρῇ**. See notes on Ch. xlii. 17, 22:

14. And the remnant of Judah, &c.] It is evident from ver. 28. that some Jews were to escape the general destruction in Egypt, and to return into their own country, although but a few; and the same

thing is implied in the latter sentence of this verse. But the former part of this verse excludes out of the number of escapers every individual of those that were called properly "the remnant of Judah," those that had set their faces to enter Egypt to sojourn there in opposition to the express command of God, upon a presumption that they knew better than God how to consult their own restoration. The few then who were destined to escape, and to return back to the land of Judah, were to be such as had come into the land of Egypt in a less offensive manner, and chanced to be there when the storm burst upon them.

17.--the regency of the heavens---] See note on Ch. vii. 18. Eleven MSS. and two Editions read למלאכת; one MS. אחרי למלאכת; in three others the כ is dilated upon a rasure. Again, ver. 18. twelve, perhaps thirteen, MSS. besides one in the margin, and one Edition, read למלאכת, and in two MSS. the כ is dilated upon a rasure. ---Again, ver. 19. thirteen, perhaps fourteen, MSS. read למלאכת, and in three the כ is dilated upon a rasure.---It is to be observed that in these places the LXX. render, *τη βασιλισση του ουρανου*; whereas Ch. vii. 18. they have rendered the same words, *τη στρατια του ουρανου*.

19.---exclusively of our men---] By the law of Moses, the men had an independent power of binding themselves by any religious vow or obligation; but the vows of the women were not binding, without the knowledge and consent of their fathers and husbands; but if the father or husband knew of the vow, and did not signify his dissent at the time, his consent was presumed, and the vow stood firm and irrevocable. Numb. xxx. 1---16. This appeal therefore to the concurrence of their men must be considered as coming from the female part of the assembly only, who thereby appear to declare, that since they were thus authorized by those, who alone had a legal right to controul them, they should not submit to any other restraint upon their inclinations. It is to be observed, that מקטרי is of the masculine gender, because אנחנו includes both the men and women, who in some degree joined together in this idolatrous worship; and from this joint concern it is, that the women argue the consent of the men. The women however seem to have taken the most active part in the business, and the men to be rather passively concerned. See what follows in Note on ver. 25.

Ibid.---and pouring out---] For ירסן, eleven MSS. and two Editions read וירסן; and two MSS. ירסן.

21.---or hath it been acceptable unto him?] ונתעלה על-לבו... That is said to be על-לב. "near," or "according to the heart" of any one, which is pleasing or acceptable to him. Thus Ruth ii. 13. "thou hast spoken according to the heart of thine handmaid," נתעלה שפחתך, what is agreeable or pleasing to her. So again, 2 Sam. xix. 7. Accordingly that thing is said to "ascend" or "come unto, or upon, the heart" of any one, which he approves and delights in. Thus "all that came into Solomon's heart," 2 Chron. vii. 11. means, all that was agreeable to him, or that he liked to do. And 2 Kings xii. 4. "all the money that cometh into any man's heart," אשר יעלה על-לב איש, is all that he is willing or desirous to bring into the house of JEHOVAH. So Ch. vii.

31. the burning of the children in sacrifice is said to be a thing which God had not commanded, "nor did it ever come unto his heart," **וְלֹא עָלָה עַל-לֵב**, that is, as has been before explained, it was not what he desired, or in any wise approved or delighted in.---**רָקַט** is here the infinitive mood of the verb with the article prefixed, used as a noun, and is properly to be rendered, "the burning of incense."

25.---As for you and your women, &c.] The different genders have not been sufficiently attended to in the explications that have been hitherto given of this verse; they ought however to have been carefully distinguished, as such a distinction seems to be the proper key to let us into the true meaning of the text. For it cannot be imagined, that a writer of any tolerable accuracy would jumble the genders together in such a promiscuous manner as they would be found here, supposing the same persons to be all along intended. In the version I have endeavoured to preserve the distinction; and the sense resulting therefrom appears to be this; that though the women were the immediate actors in the idolatrous vows and service, the men would still be considered as having a principal share in the guilt, forasmuch as they made the acts of the women their own, by not preventing what without their allowance could not have been carried into effect. See the preceding Note on ver. 19.

Ibid.—they will surely accomplish your vows] Three, perhaps four MSS. read with the Chaldee **נְסִיכִיכִי**, *your libations*, instead of **נְדָרֵיכִי** in the last instance; and with that reading we must render, "they will surely perform your libations."

30.—Pharaoh-Hophra king of Egypt—] This prince is the same that is called by profane Authors *Apries*; and his unfortunate end, in exact conformity with this prediction, is related by Herodotus, Lib. ii. c. 169. and by Diodorus Siculus, Lib. i. pag. 43. Edit. Rhodomanni. 1604.

CHAP. XLV. has been already inserted next after CHAP. XXXVI.

CHAP. XLVI.

1. THE WORD OF JEHOVAH, &c.] This verse is a general title to the collection of prophecies contained in this and the five following Chapters. The nations spoken of are the same of whom an enumeration is made, Ch. xxv. 19—26. Thirteen, perhaps fourteen, MSS. and eight Editions, read **כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם**, "all the nations." These prophecies were not delivered all at the same time. To some the date is annexed; in others it is left uncertain.

2. OF EGYPT.] In this Chapter are two distinct prophecies concerning Egypt. The first appears to have been delivered at the time that the Egyptian army lay along the banks of the Euphrates, waiting

to oppose the entrance of Nebuchadnezzar into Syria, in the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah. The two armies came to an engagement near the city of Carchemish, the same which Pharaoh-Necho was going against, when he was opposed by king Josiah, 2 Chro. xxxv. 20. and which is supposed to be that which Ammianus calls *Carcusium*, Lib. xxiii. cap. 5. The event of the battle proved very unfortunate to the Egyptians, who were routed with a prodigious slaughter; as is here foretold by the prophet in a very animated style, and with great poetic energy and liveliness of colouring. In the third and fourth verses the mighty preparations of the Egyptians for war are described; which occasion the prophet, who foresees the defeat, to express his astonishment at an event so contrary to what might have been expected; but he accounts for it by ascribing it to the disposition of the Almighty, who had spread terror all around, and had decreed that neither swiftness nor strength should avail the owners, so as to save them from the impending overthrow; v. 5, 6. In the verses that follow next, the king of Egypt is represented as beginning his march with all the ostentation and insolence of presumed success. He is compared to a mighty river, the Nile, or the Euphrates, when it swells above its banks, and threatens to overwhelm the country with ruin and desolation; v. 7, 8. He is heard calling aloud to the nations of which his army is composed, giving them the signal for action, and rousing them to deeds of desperate valour; v. 9. But all in vain; for the time is come for God to avenge himself of his ancient foes; they are doomed to slaughter, to fall a bloody sacrifice on the plains of the north; v. 10. The whole concludes with an apostrophe to the daughter of Egypt, whose wound is pronounced incurable, and her disgrace universally known; forasmuch as the number of her warriors have served only to augment the general disorder, and more effectually to destroy each other.

5. Fear is on every side, saith JEHOVAH] These words ought rather to be connected with the following, which being spoken imperatively can only be understood as coming from the mouth of God. Fear seems to be put by metonymy for danger. So that the words taken all together imply, that from the danger which surrounded them on all sides it was the divine decree that neither the swift should escape by flight, nor the strong be able to extricate himself by any exertions of valour.

8.---do his waters swell] The ancient versions seem all to have read here מימיו, as in the preceding verse. I am inclined to think, that the י has been dropt by accident after מים; and that instead of ויאמר כים, we should read מימיו יאמר; although the versions seem rather to countenance ויאמר מימיו.

Ibid.---[I will destroy the city] Perhaps instead of אבירח עיר, we should rather read, אבירח דעיר; not that any particular city seems to have been intended, but indefinitely the cities of the land, which the king of Egypt under the image of a river was to overflow.

9. Cush and Phut---] *Cush* and *Phut* were two of the sons of *Ham*, and brothers to *Mixraim* the father of the Egyptians; Gen. x. 6. And the *Ludim* are said to be descended from *Mixraim*; Gen. x. 13. *Cush*

is translated both in the LXX. and Vulgate, as well as in our English version, *Ethiopians*. But Bochart and others are persuaded that the *Arabians* are always meant by that appellation in Scripture. And in general I think it must be so understood. See Bochart Phaleg. Lib. iv. cap. 2. Here I think those Arabians are chiefly intended, who bordered upon Egypt near the Red Sea, and whom we find closely connected with the Egyptians, Isa. xx. 3, 4, 5. See note on Ch. xiii. 23. As these lay to the east, so by *Phut* it is most probable the Libyans were intended, who lay west of Egypt. Josephus says expressly, that Phut settled in Libya; and that in Mauritania there was at the time he wrote a river of that name; Ant. Lib. i. Cap. 6. Edit. Huds. Pliny mentions this river; Nat. Hist. Lib. v. Cap. 1. And Jerome, who likewise adds, that the country round was called *Phutensis*. Tradit. Heb. in Genesin.—See also Bochart. Phaleg. Lib. iv. Cap. 33. As for the *Ludim*, Bochart contends that they were the Ethiopians; Phaleg. Lib. iv. 26. And that the Ethiopians were famous for the use of the bow, we may learn from Herodotus, Lib. vii. Cap. 69. who says, that they had bows four cubits long. In a matter however not altogether certain it seems the best way to adhere to the Scriptural names, and to be satisfied that the three nations were allies of Egypt, as they are also represented, Ezek. xxx. 5.

Ibid.—expert in the use of the bow] תַּפְשֵׁי דַרְכֵי קֶשֶׁת—Literally, “handling” or “practising the ways of the bow.” The Syr. version seems to countenance this. But for my own part I cannot help suspecting an interpolation of the word תַּפְשֵׁי, which was used just before; and think that קֶשֶׁת וְלִדִּים דַּרְכֵי is in itself a complete and more likely sentence; “And the Ludim that bend the bow.” In what manner those great bows were bent, see Note on Ch. li. 3.

10. But this is the day of the Lord—] There is some ground for suspecting the word לִאֲדֹנִי, which I do not think is countenanced by the ancient versions; and in the collated MSS. there are the following variations. In one MS. לִאֲדֹנִי is upon a rasure; in another לִיחֻזֹּת is substituted for it; in another for לִאֲדֹנִי יחֻזֹּת we find only לִיחֻזֹּת; in another לִיחֻזֹּת לִאֲדֹנִי; in another לִיחֻזֹּת אֶל־רֵי; in another יחֻזֹּת is omitted. In the second instance for לִאֲדֹנִי יחֻזֹּת the ancient MS. No. 1. reads לִיחֻזֹּת אֶל־חִים; and one MS. omits צְבָאוֹת. The LXX. in the first instance seem to have read לִאֲדֹנִינוּ לִיחֻזֹּת, and in the second, only לִיחֻזֹּת according to the Roman Edition, but צְבָאוֹת לִיחֻזֹּת according to the Alexandrian and MS. Pachom. The Vulgate I conceive to have read in both places, לִיחֻזֹּת אֶל־רֵי צְבָאוֹת, or לִיחֻזֹּת לֶאֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת. I have not however attempted any further alteration, than barely to prefix ל to יחֻזֹּת in the first instance, which I think, tends to a proper division of the hemistichs. See Ch. i. 25.

Ibid.—To avenge himself of his enemies] Besides ancient feuds, a more recent ground of God's enmity against Egypt arose from the perfidious conduct of the Egyptians towards his people, whom they encouraged to trust in their alliance, and always deserted in time of need. See Isai. xxx. 3, 4, 5. Ezek. xxix. 6, 7.

11.—and take balm] צִיר. See note on Ch. viii. 22.

Ibid.—hast thou multiplied—] For **הרביתי** seven MSS. read with the Masora, **הרבית**. And all the ancient versions express the second person singular, and not the first.

12.—together---] For **יחדיו** twenty one MSS. and two Editions read **יחדו**.

13. THE WORD WHICH JEHOVAH SPAKE, &c.] There appears no ground for ascertaining the time when this second prophecy was delivered; but the desolation foretold in it is undoubtedly the same which Ezekiel has predicted, Ch. xxix, xxx, xxxi, xxxii. And this came to pass in the twenty seventh year of Jehoiachin's captivity (that is, the sixteenth year after the destruction of Jerusalem) as may be collected from Ezek. xxix. 17. where Nebuchadnezzar's army is spoken of as having at that time suffered a great deal in the siege of Tyre; on which account the spoils of Egypt are promised them for their wages and indemnification; and the promise was accordingly made good that same year. See Joseph. Ant. Lib. x. Cap. 9. Edit. Hudson.

14.—those that are round about thee] For **סביבך** eighteen MSS. and four Editions read **סביבך**. But the text needs no alteration.

15.—thy mighty one] The Syntax and Context shew plainly that we should read **אבירך** instead of **אביריך**; and forty five, perhaps forty six, MSS. and three Editions, with the Vulgate, confirm this emendation. The LXX. render *ο Απης, ο μωσχος ο ισλακτος τε*, as if that Egyptian idol was intended. But it may as well be understood of the king of Egypt, or indefinitely put for the mighty ones or warriors of that nation in a plural sense.

16. He hath caused many to stumble, yea, to fall] The LXX. connect the words thus; and I think most properly both with respect to the sense and metre.

17. They cried there---] The allies of Egypt, driven to their own homes, as mentioned in the preceding verse, send from thence their excuses to Pharaoh, alleging the disaster which had prevented their joining him at the time and place appointed.

18.—like Tabor among the mountains] Tabor and Carmel were two of the most considerable mountains in the land of Israel. Carmel formed the principal headland all along the sea-coast. Nebuchadnezzar is compared to these, on account of his superiority over all others.

19. Get ready thy equipage for removing] I conceive **כלי** to mean either the carriages, or the trunks and boxes that held the things that were to be removed. See Ezek. xii. 3.

Ibid.—O inhabiting daughter of Egypt] There seems to be a designed *Antithesis* between **יושבת**, “inhabiting,” and the act of migration which was to follow.

20.—of a beautiful countenance] **פיה** **פורה** are two words, and seem to answer the Latin words, *Os formosa*.

Ibid.—A breeze---] The Hebrew verb **קרץ**, as the Arabic **قَرَضَ**,

signifies to *pinch* or *bite*, like one of those stinging flies, which infest the cattle. Hence we find קרצח used in Chaldee for a fly of the larger kind. It is probable some allusion must here be designed to the Egyptian traditions concerning *Iris*, on which the Grecian Mythologists founded their story of *IO*. Ovid, *Metam.* Lib. 1.

Ibid.---is coming against her---] For the second בָּא seventy three MSS. and two Editions read בָּה, as do all the ancient versions. One MS. reads בָּאָה; and in nine others the א is upon a rasure.

21.---like bullocks of the stall] That is, pampered and high fed, so that from them might have been expected the most spirited exertions.

Ibid.---together---] For thirty six MSS. and one Edition read יחדיו.

22. Her voice shall proceed like that of an enchanter] “That is, her (Egypt’s) voice shall be low and inarticulate through fear.---This passage seems to be an imitation of Isa. xxix. 4. where we find the same threat denounced against Jerusalem, viz. thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be as one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground---The cause which is assigned is the same in both places, the irresistible attack of powerful enemies.” DR DURELL.

The pertinency of the above illustration needs no other comment than to refer to Bp. Lowth’s Note on Isai. xxix. 4.

Ibid. When they shall advance] No subject is here expressed, but it is clear enough from the context who are intended; especially if the following verbs באו and כרתו be rendered, as I am persuaded they should be, in the imperative. The Syr. so renders the latter of these verbs. For the persons, whose coming was to occasion Egypt to lower her tone to such a degree, must be those, to whom JEHOVAH gave the command to go against her, and cut down her forest; that is, the Chaldeans. By “her forest” may be understood either her people, or her cities; both of which were very numerous; the latter amounting to no less than one thousand and twenty in those times; as Grotius reckons.

25.—Ammon of No—] This is a literal translation of אַמּוֹן מִנּוֹ, and we need seek for no other. Ammon was the name by which the Egyptians called Jupiter; who had a famous temple at Thebes, and was worshipped there in a distinguished manner; on which account the city was called *Diospolis*; and by this name the LXX. have rendered אַמּוֹן, Ezek. xxx. 14, 16. If No therefore be Thebes, or Diospolis, then “Ammon of No” signifies the Deity of the place, *the Theban Jupiter*, as Herodotus styles him, Lib. ii. Cap. 42. As on the other hand, אַמּוֹן מִנּוֹ, Nahum iii. 8. should be rendered “No of Ammon,” which exactly corresponds with the Greek Διοσπολις. But very different from these is the term, אַת חֲמוֹן מִנּוֹ, used Ezek. xxx. 15. which indeed signifies “the multitude,” or numerous inhabitants, “of No;” although from the similitude of אַמּוֹן and חֲמוֹן our Translators, and others besides them, have confounded them together, and have rendered מִנּוֹ אַמּוֹן, “the multitude of No,” and מִנּוֹ אַת חֲמוֹן, “populous No,” or “No of multitude.”—Some have supposed No to mean *Alexandria*, the great emporium of Egypt; and the Chaldee and Vulgate have render-

ed accordingly. But Alexandria was not built at the time when Jeremiah prophesied : and it does not appear that there had been before any considerable city at least standing upon the spot, which the founder made the object of his choice.

When an idolatrous nation is doomed to destruction, God is said to execute vengeance upon the idols of the country ; See Ch. xliii. 12, 13. Accordingly Ammon of No, the principal Deity, and Pharaoh, the principal man, among the Egyptians, are marked out in the first place as the primary objects of divine visitation ; then follow in the gross Egypt with all her gods, and all her kings ; which latter term is explained to include both Pharaoh himself, and those subordinate rulers, who were dependant upon him for the rank and authority they held.

26.—after this shall it be inhabited] At the end of forty years Egypt was to begin to recover itself, as Ezekiel foretells, Ch. xxix. 13.

27, 28.] These two verses are almost the same as Ch. xxx. 10, 11. See the Notes on the latter of those verses.

CHAP. XLVII.

1.—CONCERNING THE PHILISTINES] Among the other nations who were doomed to suffer by the hostilities of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Philistines are enumerated Ch. xxv. 20. and the calamities foretold in this present Chapter most probably befel them during the long siege of Tyre, when Nebuchadnezzar ravaged their country, in order, as it is said ver. 4. to cut off from Tyre and Sidon all chance of assistance from that quarter. But as no history, sacred or profane, has, to my knowledge, mentioned the taking of Gaza by the king of Egypt ; there is no means of ascertaining the precise date of the delivery of this prophecy. Some have supposed the Pharaoh here spoken of to be Pharaoh-Necho, and that he subdued Gaza after the battle of Megiddo, 2 Kings xxiii. 29. when the whole country round submitted to his victorious arms. Others have thought, that it was Pharaoh-Hophra, who having marched out of Egypt to the relief of Jerusalem, when besieged by the Chaldeans, in the ninth or tenth year of Zedekiah, thought proper to retire again on the approach of the enemy towards him ; Ch. xxxvii. 5, 7. but on his return fell upon Gaza, and pillaged it. All this however is no better than mere conjecture ; and it seems at least as probable, that this event happened about the fourth year of Zedekiah, when we find the kings of the neighbouring nations of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon, meditating a revolt against the king of Babylon, and sending their ambassadors to Zedekiah to engage him in their confederacy ; Ch. xxvii. Now this, I think, they would scarcely have been hardy enough to undertake, had they not thought themselves sure of support from the king of Egypt ; who perhaps at this very time, having war in view, may have begun his operations by surprizing the strong city of Gaza, which from its situation must have greatly annoyed Egypt, had it been in the hands of an enemy. Admit this, and it will not only furnish the date of this prophecy, but

will afford a reasonable ground to presume, that about the same time were delivered both the latter prophecy in the preceding Chapter concerning Egypt, and also those in the two following Chapters concerning the several nations therein specified, none of which, excepting that concerning Elam, have any dates annexed to them. Against this it may perhaps be alleged, that these prophecies are all alluded to Ch. xxv. 13, where we read, "all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied concerning the nations." I grant the allusion, but without allowing the inference, that therefore these prophecies must have been in being before the prophecy contained in that Chapter, which is dated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim. For indeed if that inference were allowed, it would equally tend to antedate the prophecies concerning Elam, and concerning Babylon itself, which are equally alluded to with the rest, but are expressly assigned to the fourth year of Zedekiah. But the truth seems to be, that the words above cited from Ch. xxv. 13. were not originally a part of the prophecy there, as it was first spoken by Jeremiah; it being pretty generally agreed, that Jeremiah's prophecies were not compiled together into a *book* till some time after their first publication. This compilation may not have taken place till after the taking of Jerusalem, for all that we know, whether made by Jeremiah himself, or by some other under his direction; and therefore, if not certainly made before the time in which these prophecies are supposed to have been delivered, no argument can be drawn against the supposition from the words above cited, which could not have been inserted until the time of such compilation, as before that time they could not be said to be written altogether in a book.

3. At the noise of the galloping of the hoofs of his steeds] שַׁעֲמַר occurs no where else in the Hebrew. The LXX. render it *αγας*; the Syr. and Chald. by words that respectively denote a progressive motion. But Grotius seems to have expressed it most happily, who has rendered שַׁעֲמַר מְקוֹל, *a quadrupedante sono*: having in view, no doubt, that line of Virgil. *Æn. viii. 596.*

Quadrupedante putrem sonitu quatit ungula campum.

We may therefore render it, "At the galloping sound," or "at the sound of the galloping"---The Syriac verb שַׁעֲמַר signifies *to swim* in water, and *to fly* in air; and may with equal propriety be applied to *the galloping motion* of a horse, performed by a similar action of his feet upon the ground.

Ibid.—At the rattling of the multitude of his wheels, as he drove along] The Syr. Vulg. and the Alexandrian Edition of the LXX. together with MS. Pachom. render as if they had read וְדָמָן; but the conjunction appears not in any of the collated MSS. or Editions. For my part, I consider רַבּ as the infinitive mood expressing the act of riding, or driving along; so that לִרְכַּבּוֹ may signify *in equitatione*, vel *aurigatione ejus*, or *in equitando*, vel *aurigando eo*, "in his driving along." This being so, וְדָמָן may either be governed of לִרְכַּבּוֹ, or of מְרַעֵשׁ.

Ibid.—for slackness of bands] מְרַעֵשׁ יָדַי---This implies a dissolu-

tion or relaxation of bodily vigour from the impression made by fear on the mind, so as to incapacitate a person from exerting his strength to any efficacious purpose.

4. The remnant of the country of Caphtor] The *Caphtorim*, as well as the *Philistim*, are said to have been descended from Mizraim, the father of the Egyptians; Gen. x. 14. Whether these Caphtorim were settled at first in Cappadocia, as some of the ancients have thought; or in the island of Crete, according to others; or whether they migrated immediately from some parts of Egypt, where they were straitened for room; which considering the place they removed to, seems rather more probable; certain it is, that they expelled the *Avim* from that part of Philistia, which is contiguous to Gaza, and fixed themselves there; Deut. ii. 23. on which account the country was afterwards called the country of *Caphtor*. For the signification of *צַפְתּוֹר*, see Note on Ch. ii. 10. "The remnant of the country of Caphtor" is therefore to be understood of the few that remained out of a great number, that formerly dwelt in that part of Philistia.

5. Ashkelon is put to silence] As shaving off of the hair, and cutting of the flesh have been before observed to be marks of grief and mourning, Ch. xvi. 6.; so silence is likewise expressive of great affliction. Thus Job's friends are said to have sat with him seven days and seven nights upon the ground without addressing a word to him, because they saw his grief was very great, Job ii. 13. And so *נִדְמָה* is to be understood Isa. xv. 1. of Moab's being made speechless with grief and astonishment the night that her cities were spoiled. See Ch. xlviii. 2.

Ibid.—O thou remnant of their valley] Instead of *עֵמֶקָם*, "their valley," the LXX. appear to have read *עֵמֶק־נָקִי*, "of the Anakims." And this reading may be thought to derive some countenance from what is said, Josh. xi. 22. "There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel; only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained." But we shall see reason to prefer the present reading of the text, if we consider the situation of Gaza and Ashkelon, about twelve miles distant from each other, near the sea, in a valley, of whose beauty and fertility an accurate Traveller has given the following description. "We past this day through the most pregnant and pleasant valley that ever eye beheld. On the right hand a ridge of high mountains, (whereon stands Hebron) on the left hand the Mediterranean sea; bordered with continued hills, beset with variety of fruits.—The champion between about twenty miles over, full of flowery hills ascending leisurely, and not much surmounting their ranker vallies; with groves of olives, and other fruits, dispersedly adorned." Sandys's Travels, Book iii. p. 150. The author adds, that in his time "this wealthy bottom (as are all the rest,) was for the most part uninhabited, but only for a few small and contemptible villages." A state of desolation owing to the oppressions of a barbarous and ill-advised government. But we may easily conceive the populousness that must have prevailed there in its better days, especially if we consi-

der the power which the Philistines once possessed, and the armies they brought into the field ; although their country was scarce forty English miles in length, and much longer than it was broad.

6. Ho ! sword of JEHOVAH !] The Babylonish monarch seems to be here addressed by this title, as the Assyrian was by that of “the rod of God’s anger,” Isai. x. 5. such conquerors being the appointed executioners of the divine judgments. Compare Ezek. xiv. 17. xxi. 3, &c.

Ibid.—Return—] **וָרָגְרִי**—See Note on Ch. vi. 16.

7. How can it be at rest] It is obvious from the context that **וַיָּשָׁב** is here improperly repeated in the second person, and that we ought to read **וַיָּשָׁב** in the third person ; as all the ancient versions have done,

CHAP. XLVIII.

1. CONCERNING MOAB] The following prophecies concerning the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, and other neighbouring nations, are supposed to have been fulfilled about the same time with that concerning the Philistines in the preceding Chapter, namely, during the siege of Tyre. See Usher’s Annals, An. Mundi 3419. Joseph. Ant. Lib. x. Cap. ix. Edit. Huds. With respect to the time of the delivery of these prophecies, see the prefatory Note on Ch. xlvii.

Many passages and expressions will be found in this Chapter, which Jeremiah hath borrowed from a prophecy of Isaiah, Ch. xv. and xvi. concerning a like calamity which befel Moab, in all probability when Shalmaneser king of Assyria seized upon their cities and fortresses, and ravaged their country, on his march through it to invade the kingdom of Israel. By comparing the parallel places much light may be mutually thrown upon them, and, as Bp. Lowth thinks, several mistakes in the present Text of both Prophets may be rectified.

Ibid.—the high fortress—] **וְהַמִּשְׁגָּב**—Our Translators have here rendered, “Misgab,” as the proper name of a city. But we find no mention any where else of a city of Moab of that name. From the article prefixed I am induced to think that **וְהַמִּשְׁגָּב** is an appellative, and applied to Kirjathaim, (if the text stand as at present) which by a repetition is said to be confounded, “high fortress though it were,” and broken down, notwithstanding the strength of its situation. In the Roman Edition of the LXX, **וְהַמִּשְׁגָּב וְהַחֲתָר וְהַיִּשְׁוֹר** is rendered, *καὶ ἡ ἀσχυρὰ καὶ ἡ ἀγὰρ*. What *ἀμαχ* καὶ *ἀγὰρ* can mean, I know not. But in the Alexand. Edition we find instead of these words, *ἀσχυρὰ καὶ ἀγὰρ*. In MS Pachom. *το ἀσχυρὰ Μοαβ, καὶ ἡ ἡρῶν*. And perhaps we may not unreasonably suspect a double error to have crept into the text, and that for **וְהַיִּשְׁוֹר** we ought to read **וְהַיִּשְׁוֹר**, where the **ו** has been added by mistake arising from the next word beginning with **ו** ; and that for **וְהַחֲתָר** we should read **וְהַחֲתָר**, as the **ו** conversive seems to require. Thus corrected, the text might be rendered in a direct manner,

The high fortress is confounded and broken down

"The high fortress" might mean either Kirjathaim beforementioned, or any other high fortress of Moab, as MS. Pachom. suggests.

2.—in Heshbon ; They have devised—] There is a *Paronomasia* in these words, בִּדְשָׁבוֹן דָּשְׁבוּ ; a figure in which the Hebrew writers seem much to delight. Another occurs presently after in this verse, חֲרָמִי מִדְּמִן. חֲרָמִי signifies, "thou shalt be made speechless" with grief and astonishment ; See Note on Ch. xlvii. 5.

3. A cry is heard from Horonaim] Literally 'The voice of a cry,' which is an Hebraism, and means what is expressed in the version. See note on Ch. x. 22.

4.—Her diminished ones—] For צְעֻרִיּוֹת the Masoretes have substituted צְעִירִיּוֹת, and are countenanced by nineteen MSS. and three Editions. The LXX render, ὡς Ζεφυρος, which leads one to think that they had found, or supposed, the reading to be צְעֻרִיּוֹת, answering to צֹרֶה, Isai. xv. 5. But I see no reason to suspect an error in the received reading of the Text צְעֻרִיּוֹת, "her diminished ones ;" צְעֻרִים being the participle Pahul from צָעַר, and signifying persons *reduced* or *made little*, either in number, or in circumstances ; as was the case of the Moabites, who are represented as having suffered in both from the hostilities that had been exercised against them.

5.—at the ascent of Luhith—] For חֲלִיזוֹת sixteen MSS. and one Edition read with the Masora חֲלִיזוֹתִית, as Isai. xv. 5. and eighteen MSS. and three Editions, חֲלִיזִית. At Luhith the hill country of Moab appears to have begun, and here the people are represented as mounting the hill successively in their flight before the enemy, weeping as they follow one after another. So that from hence the text in Isaiah may more probably be corrected by reading בָּכִי for בּוֹ, "Weeping shall go up after weeping." At Horonaim they again descended into the plain ; where, it is said, "mine enemies" (God is the speaker) "have heard a cry of destruction." God calls the Moabites "his enemies," as bearing them a grudge for the malevolence expressed by them towards his people, the Jews, and for their insolence towards himself ; see ver. 26. 42: Ezek. xxv. 8. 9. Zeph. ii. 8. 9, 10,—In Isaiah צָרִי is not found, and יַעֲרֹו (perhaps a mistake for יַעֲרֹוּ) stands in the place of שָׁמְעוּ. But these variations may have been by design.

6.—And be like a blasted tree—] That is, a tree stripped of its foliage. A proper emblem of one robbed of all his fortune, and just able to escape with life by fleeing into the desert.

7.—And Chemosh—] For כְּמוֹשׁ the Masora reads כְּמוֹשׁ as at ver. 13. and twenty seven MSS. and five Editions, with all the ancient versions, confirm the emendation.—Also for יִדְרוּ the Masora reads יִדְרוּ ; which is likewise confirmed by twenty MSS. and three Editions, besides five MSS. which have a letter erased at the end of יִדְרוּ.

11.—he hath settled upon his lees] All wines, it is said, ought to be kept for some time upon their lees, in order to preserve their strength and flavour ; on which account *the lees* are expressed by a word that

signifies *the preservers*. Wine is apt to be damaged by being drawn off too soon into other vessels. By this allegory therefore Moab is represented as having enjoyed singular advantages from having constantly remained in his own country, ever since he became a people. See Bishop Lowth's excellent Note on Isa. xxv. 6.

12. Nevertheless—] לכן here may signify *Nevertheless*, or it may be rendered, *After this*. See Note on Ch. xvi. 14.

Ibid.—tilters, that shall tilt him down] Our translators have rendered וצעו וצעו, “wanderers that shall cause him to wander;” and the same idea of *wandering* or *travelling* is elsewhere supposed to belong to צע; but, I think, without any good grounds. The true signification of this verb may rather be derived from the Arabic, *لَوَّ*. *inclinavit* or from *لَوَّى* *destruxit, humiliavit, solo aquavit*. The former of these *لَوَّى* is peculiarly used to signify *the tilting or lowering*, of a cask, or jar, in order to draw out the contents. Accordingly the LXX. here render, κλινεται, και κλινουσιν αυτον. The Vulgate, *stratores laguncularum, et sternent eum*. See Note on Ch. ii. 20. The allegory therefore begun in the preceding verse is here continued, and by וצעו *tilters*, the Chaldeans are designed, who should lower the vessels of Moab, namely, the cities, and empty them, and also break to pieces their bottles or pitchers, that is destroy the lesser towns and villages, dependant on the cities: to which the bottles or pitchers answer, being filled with the redundancy of the larger vessels.—In confirmation of the above etymology we may observe, how much better a sense is supplied from thence, than that which our translators have given in two places of Isaiah, where the word צע occurs. In Isai. li. 14. צע is rendered “the captive exile; but it seems rather to be the participle *Pahul* which should be written at large פהול; and signifies *prostratus*. “the wretch depressed” by misfortunes, or by violent oppression; and thus stands opposed to פוצץ “the oppressor,” of whom it was asked in the preceding verse, “What is become of the fury of the oppressor?” In reply to which question it follows very aptly, that the cause being removed, the effect would cease; “the poor afflicted sufferer” should soon be released, now that the oppressor was no more.—Again, Isaiah lxiii. 1. צעו ברב כח is rendered in our Bible, “travelling in the greatness of his strength.” Would it not be much more suitable to the context, “subduing,” or “humbling” his enemies “by his mighty power?”

13.—Bethel—] That is, the calf set up there for an object of divine worship, to which the Israelites trusted for protection. 1 Kings xii. 28. 29. Hos. x. 6.

15. A spoiler of Moab, &c.] The conqueror of Moab is here represented as having gained an eminence above her, and from thence sending down the choice of his troops to massacre those below.—If the distinction of gender in the affix pronouns be attended to, this explanation of the words will be found necessary, and will clear up every difficulty in the construction. Six MSS. read וצו, as at ver 18.

18. Come down from splendour, and sit in thirst—] Thirst is here put in a general sense for a want of the necessities of life. Some have supposed that צמא may signify the same as צמאון, *a dry, parched, thirsty, land*. If so, as her former situation might be figured by sitting on a splendid throne, so her present misery by sitting on the ground. See Isai. iii. 26. But the other interpretation seems most natural.—For ישי, the Masora, and twenty, perhaps twenty too, MSS. and three Editions read ושי; which reading is confirmed by all the ancient versions.

20.---he is broken down] As Moab is here masculine, being the subject of חביש, and is the subject of חתה too, I am inclined to think that for חתה we should read חת, and that the ה was added at the end by mistake owing to the next word חלילי beginning with that letter. See the same again, ver. 39.

Ibid.—Howl ye, and cry.;] For חלילי and וצעקי the Masora reads חלילי and וצעקו. Seven MSS. and one Edition read חלילי; and eight, perhaps ten, MSS. and three Editions, חלילי. Twelve MSS. and four Editions read וצעקו. All the ancient versions, except the LXX. express these verbs in the plural number. But the LXX. not only render both these verbs singular, but also חגירו, as if they had read חגירי.

21.—Mephaath—] For מופעת the Masora reads מפעת, and so do sixteen, perhaps seventeen, MSS. and three Editions. The Chaldee also expresses the name here, as both the Hebrew and Chaldee text, Josh. xxi. 37. The Chaldee is also uniform, Josh. xiii. 18. But in the Hebrew Text there we find מפעת without the י; but twenty two MSS. and three Editions there also read מפעת.

26. Make him drunken—] חשכירו---This is certainly the singular number, although the LXX. Syr. and Vulg. with our English translators, have rendered in the plural, as if they had read, חשכירוהו, which is indeed the reading of seven MSS. and one Edition. But the Chaldæe has retained the singular number, and, I think, rightly, the address being made to any one indefinitely; and וטפק is also the second person singular in the imperative likewise; the same person being commanded to clap hands at Moab, as pointing him out to scorn and ridicule in his despicable condition. This is the proper sense of טפק, which indeed is generally followed by a noun expressing *the hands*; but not always; see Job xxxiv. 37.

27.---Was he found---] For נמצאה nine MSS. and three Editions, with the Masora, read נמצא.

Ibid.---That thou shouldst insult him with all the power of thy words] Our Translators have rendered חתנור, "thou skippedst for joy;" but this seems quite foreign to the purpose; and besides, the verb is in the future. חזק מדי דברך signifies properly, *according to the power, or sufficiency, of thy words*, and חתנור, *thou shalt, or shouldst, move, or bestir thyself*. And the sense of all taken together is very apt and suitable. Didst thou find Israel among thieves, coming to rob thee of thy property, that thou shouldst think thyself entitled to break out into all manner of revilings against him?" Compare Ezek. xxv. 8. Zeph. ii.

8, 10. The LXX. and Syr. render כִּי בִרְחִיבֶיךָ, "that thou shouldest make war upon him;" but they have omitted מִי־דְבָרְךָ; otherwise the sense would not differ essentially from what I have proposed. Mr Lowth has suggested another, though, I think, a less probable translation; "For the words thou hast spoken against him thou shalt be carried captive." This agrees with the Chaldee Paraphrase.

28.—by the sides of the pit's mouth] That is, on the edge of the precipice. The mouth of the pit is the same as the brink of destruction; the pit or grave yawning wide, as it were, ready to swallow one up. And the image is peculiarly striking, when a person from the side of a steep rock looks down into a deep gulph below. The Moabites are exhorted to retire for safety to such places, where the apprehensions of danger would secure them from the enemy's pursuit. That doves build in the clefts or natural hollows of a rock, see Cant. ii. 14. Dr Shaw in his Travels p. 162. fol. mentions a city on the African coast, called *Hamam-et*, from the number of wild pigeons (*Hamam*) that are bred in the cliffs of the adjacent mountains.

29, 30.] There are several words in these two verses, which are not to be found in the parallel passage, Isa. xvi. 6. But in the main they agree; and while they describe the overweening pride and insolence of Moab, and the intemperance of his rage, they intimate the small pretensions he had for such high assuming, either in respect of the extent of his power, or of his actual performance.

30.—he is not alike in the extent of his ability] כֵּן refers to גָּאֹר in the preceding verse; "he is not so," that is, alike supereminent—בְּדֶרֶךְ signifies according to the measure, or extent of his power; see Note on Ch. xxxvi. 18. The LXX. according to MS. Pachom. render it, κατὰ τὸ μέγεθος αὐτοῦ—"he is not so," alike supereminent, "in performing." עָשׂוֹ is the infinitive mood used gerundively, *faciendo*, or, *quoad faciendum*.

31.—Shall Jaazer make moan inarticulately through weeping] I have not the least doubt that the subject of יִזְדָּגֵר is to be found in עֲזֹר, which has been improperly separated from it, and, together with the preceding word מִבְּכִי, assigned to the beginning of the following verse. Nor is it difficult to perceive that the mistake has arisen from exacting a greater conformity between this passage and its parallel one, Isa. xvi. than was ever intended. For though Jeremiah has condescended to borrow not only the sentiments, but also the words of his predecessor, he has not tied himself down to observe the same order in their construction, as will abundantly appear from examining the two passages together. יִזְדָּגֵר properly signifies to utter a confused imperfect sound, as those do whose voice is broken with grief and weeping: מִבְּכִי, "from," or "because of weeping," is therefore added to it emphatically. And Jaazer, one of the cities of Moab, Num. xxxii. 3. is by a beautiful fiction of poetry represented as condoling in such a piteous moan with the citizens of Kir-heres on the misfortunes of their country. Kir-heres or Kir-haraseth, appears to have been once the capital, or at least the strongest of the cities of Moab, 2 Kings iii. 23.

By detaching **מבכי יעזר** as above, the sense of what follows is not impaired, but the metrical division seems to be rendered more perfect. One MS. indeed for **יחגור** reads **אחגור**; but it is single, and not countenanced by the ancient versions, or any other authority.

I would here beg leave to offer an observation on the corresponding passage, Isa. xvi. 7. where we read **קיר-חרשת תחגור אֶךְ-נכאים** **לִאֲנָשִׁי**. The change of **לִאֲנָשִׁי** into **לִאֲנָשִׁי**, in conformity with the reading in Jeremiah, is probably right. But the last word **נכאים**, to which Bishop Lowth objects, and proposes to read **נכלמו** instead of it, may yet, I conceive, be allowed to hold its place. **אֶךְ-נכאים** may be rendered, "verily being sore grieved," and joined with **תחגור** points out the immediate cause of that inarticulate moan implied, as above noticed, in the verb **חגור**, the voice being as it were choaked with grief; just as **מבכי** is here added to **יחגור** for the same purpose. "For the men of Kir-hereseth shall ye moan, verily being sore grieved."

32.—Thy shoots have passed beyond the sea, &c.] As the parallel passage Isa. xvi. 8, 9. and this verse tend mutually to illustrate each other, it may not be amiss to subjoin the following, which appears to me the most exact and literal translation of the former. I do not mean to examine how far Bishop Lowth's alterations of the text in Isaiah are well or ill grounded, but simply to compare what is said in both places of the vine of Sibmah, which is unconcerned with those alterations.

- 8 Because the fields of Heshbon have languished,
The vine of Sibmah the lords of the nations have broken down,
Whose generous plants extended unto Jaazer,
Whose shoots strayed into the wilderness,
They diffused themselves, they passed beyond the sea.
- 9 Therefore with the weeping of Jaazer will I weep,
O vine of Sibmah, I will water thee with my tears;
O Heshbon and Elealeh, because for thy summer fruits,
And for thy harvest, the shouting hath fallen (or, failed.)

Sibmah was a city of Moab, and, as we may perceive, distinguished for its excellent vine, the shoots or plants of which were much sought after, and of course propagated over the neighbouring country. In Isaiah the passage is fullest, for there it is said, these plants "extended to Jaazer, strayed into the wilderness, and passed beyond the sea." "Jaazer" was a city in the north border of Moab, being, as Eusebius in his *Onomasticon* places it, ten miles to the west of Philadelphia, that is, Rabbah of the children of Ammon. "The wilderness" of Moab lay to the east of that country, Numb. xxi. 11. And by "the sea" no other can well be understood than the Dead sea, or Lake of Asphaltites, which was in the south west quarter of Moab. In the verse now before us we read, as the text stands at present, "thy shoots have passed beyond the sea, unto the sea of Jaazer have they extended." Hence Geographers have been induced to suppose a lake near the city of Jaazer, and called by that name; but, I believe, without any other authority than what is derived from this passage. But two MSS. omit **וְ** be-

fore יַעַר, and the LXX. say nothing of the sea, but instead thereof render, πους Ιαση. So that the existence of such a sea or lake is at least very questionable; and I am inclined to think the text here was no other than in Isaiah, עַד יַעַר נָעַר; and thus we find the shoots of this celebrated vine to have diffused themselves from the Dead Sea unto Jaazer; that is, the whole length of the country from south to north.

33.—The treader shall not tread—] לֹא יִדְרֹךְ דִּירָךְ—In these words there is a palpable mistake, which the text of Isa. xvi. 10. enables us to rectify, where we read לֹא יִדְרֹךְ דִּירָךְ; and this correction is confirmed both by the Syr. and Chaldee. The next words, דִּירָךְ לֹא דִירָךְ, will be found to correspond exactly in sense with what follows in the text of Isaiah, דִּירָךְ חֲשֹׁבֶתִי “I have caused the shouting (or, acclamation of the vintagers) to cease;” or, as Bishop Lowth rather approves, דִּירָךְ חֲשֹׁבֶת, “an end is put to the shouting;” which Jeremiah thus expresses, “The shouting shall be no shouting;” that is, it shall cease.

34.—[Like] a helper of three years old] The particle of similitude כִּי is not here expressed, but it is often elliptically deficient. The meaning of this verse I conceive to be, that the cry of Moab, beginning at Heshbon, was continued on from city to city, till the whole country resounded as with the lowing of a young cow, that runs from place to place in search of her calf that has been taken from her. An image singularly expressive. See Isa. xv. 4, 5.

36.—Therefore the reserves which he had made are perished] יָחַר־יָחַר properly signifies a *residuum* or *remnants* that is left after some general loss or destruction. I conceive therefore that by יָחַר־יָחַר אֲבָדוֹ we must understand, that all the reserves or savings, which Moab had made at first out of his shattered fortunes, were by reiterated blows at length so entirely consumed, as not to leave a single wreck behind.—And this interpretation will be found equally suitable to the parallel place, Isa. xv. 7. although the text is varied there; for after עָשָׂה יָחַר־יָחַר follows וּפְקֻדָּתָם, which may be rendered, “and their deposits,” or what they had carefully laid up; after which instead of אֲבָדוֹ, Isaiah adds, עַל־גְּזֵל חֲרָבִים יִשְׁאוּם; by which Jerome and others are inclined to understand, that the Assyrians should “carry them to the valley of willows,” that is, Babylon. But to this, besides other objections, it might be said, that there was no reason to suppose the Assyrians would carry their booty to Babylon, which at that time was no conspicuous part of the Assyrian empire. I should therefore propose to render, “the Arabians shall carry them to a valley;” meaning the Arabian freebooters, who might form a part of the Assyrian army, and carry the booty they had gotten into some one of those retired valleys in the desert, where it is still their custom to carry their plunder, and divide it. The LXX. it is evident, understood *the Arabians* to be designed; and what is said is very consonant to the manners of that people.

37.—shorn—] The MSS. and printed Editions are here also divided, as well as Isa. xv. 2. on the reading of גְּדֹעָה or גְּדֹעָה. The

first is found in the text here, in Isaiah the latter. See Bishop Lowth's Note on Isa. xv. 2.

Ibid.—Upon all hands are cuttings] See Notes on Ch. xvi. 6. concerning both cutting the flesh, and shaving off the hair in times of mourning.

Ibid.—And upon all loins—] כל is inserted before מותניים in nine MSS. and three Editions. So likewise read the LXX. and Vulgate.

38. Upon all the house tops---] Compare Isa. xv. 3.

39.---is he broken down---] See Note on ver. 20.

40.---like an eagle shall one fly] The verb here has an indefinite, or at least an unexpressed, subject. But the Babylonian general, or nation, is designed; for there is an evident allusion to Deut. xxviii. 49. Compare Ch. xlix. 22.

41. The cities are taken] קריות is used as a proper name ver. 24. and most of the ancient versions, as well as our English Translators, have so rendered it in this place. But the context, as well as the prefixed article, seems rather to determine it otherwise. If דוקריות be a proper name, why not דומצרות? But where do we meet with such a city as the latter? As for the singular verb being joined with a plural noun, it is a common Hebraism, and said to denote a distribution of the subject. See Buxtorf. Thes. Gram. Lib. ii. Cap. 10.

43, 44.] Compare Isa. xxiv. 17, 18. and see Bishop Lowth's Note on those verses.

44. He that fleeth---] For דונים the Masora, twenty seven MSS. and four Editions, read דונם, as in the text, Isa. xxiv. 18.

Ibid.—lamentation---] For אליה the LXX. and Syr. seem to have read אלה, which they render, "these things." But if that reading were admitted, perhaps אלה in this place might have been better translated, "a curse." But אליה may possibly signify the same as אליה in Chaldee, *lamentation, wailing*, from אלה to lament; which verb occurs in the Hebrew, Joel i. 8. The Syriac in like manner from *luxit*, derives *lamentum*.

45. Those that fled made a stand under the shadow of Heshbon for strength] Some interpreters join מחר with נסים, as if it were, "those that fled from force," or because of the superior force of the enemy. But I am more inclined to construct it with עמרו, and to understand the words thus, "Those that fled, or were put to flight in the open field, no sooner got under the cover of Heshbon, than they found themselves strong enough to make a stand; "they stood for strength," that is, the additional strength they derived from the shelter of that fortress. But now, instead of being a security to them, as formerly, Heshbon became the source of ruin to Moab.

45.—But a fire, &c.] The remainder of this verse, and the next, are borrowed from an ancient prophecy, cited Num. xxi. 28, 29. with some addition from Numb. xxiv. 17. From a juxtaposition of these passages we shall better judge of their resemblance and variations.

לחבה מקריח	מחשבון	יצאח	כיאש	Num. xxi. 28.
ולחבה מבין	מחשבון	יצא	כיאש	Jer. xlviii. 45.
בעלי במות ארנן	מואב	ער	אכלח	Num. xxi. 28.
וקדקד בני שאון	מואב	פאת	וחאכל	Jer. xlviii. 45.
וקדקד כל-בני שת	מואב	פאתי	ומחץ	Num. xxiv. 17.

In the first of these hemistichs, twelve MSS. and six Editions read יצאח in Jeremiab, the same as in the text of Numbers. In the second hemistich, ולחבה מבין corresponds in sense with מקריח; but the Syr. Theodotion, and the Arab. represent מקריח, "from the city." One MS. for מבין reads מבית. After the first word in the third hemistich, the remainder of the verse is evidently taken from Num. xxiv. 17. By מואב the LXX. understand "the princes" or "leaders of Moab," *τῶν ἀρχαίων Μωαβ* and the Chaldee interprets פאת in the same sense. But פאת seems rather to denote that circumscribed spot, angle, or quarter of the habitable earth, which was allotted for the portion of any particular people. So, Neh. ix. 22. God is said to have given his people Israel kingdoms and nations, and to have assigned them to a certain limited spot," or "quarter;" ורחלקם לפאת. And in marking out their limits, Moses says, Num. xxxiv. 3. "Then your quarter on the south shall be, &c."—ויהי לכם פאת נגב. And again, Josh xviii. 14, 15. פאת is applied in like manner. So Ch. ix. 26. by קצוצי פאת I understand those, who having an insular, or at least a peninsular, situation, had "their quarter" separated or cut off from any other by the interposition of the sea. See Note on that place—וקדקד is the reading of the Samaritan text in Numbers xxiv. 17. instead of וקרקד. וקרקד properly signifies *the crown or top of the head*; hence it may denote metaphorically *the principal seat or head quarter* of those, who are here styled "sons of tumult;" שאון being substituted probably by design for שת, in order to mark out the Moabites by a character which had rendered them particularly obnoxious, their *tumultuous* and indecent proceedings against their Jewish neighbours; see ver. 27. Or they might be called "sons of tumult," as being destined to suffer by the tumultuous invasion of the Chaldeans; in like manner as we find persons called "children of disobedience," and "children of wrath," from having been guilty of the one, and being doomed to abide the other. Eph. ii. 2, 3.

46. Wo unto thee, O Moab !] The parallel passages stand thus.

אבדת עם כמוש	אוי לך מואב	Num. xxi. 29.
אבד עם כמוש	אוי לך מואב	Jer. xlviii. 46.
ובנתיו בשבית	בניו פליטם	Num. xxi. 29.
ובנתיהן בשביח	כי-לקחו בניך בשבי	Jer. xlviii. 46.

For אבד in the second hemistich all the ancient versions, with one MS. read אבדת, as in the original prophecy. The rest seem to be variations of choice, as better suited to Jeremiah's purpose. One MS. with the Syr. and Vulg. omit בשבי, in which case the two last lines are to be rendered thus,

For they have taken thy sons
And thy daughters into captivity.

CHAP. XLIX.

1. CONCERNING THE CHILDREN OF AMMON] Besides Jeremiah, this downfall of the Ammonites is foretold also by Ezekiel, xxv. 2-7. Amos, i. 13-15. Zephaniah, ii. 8-11. For the presumptive date of the delivery of this prophecy, see Note on Ch. xlvii. 1. and for the time of its completion, see Note on Ch. xlviii. 1.

Ibid.--Why hath Milcom taken possession of Gad?] It is probable from hence, that when the king of Assyria carried away captives the Gadites and their brethren who dwelt beyond Jordan, 2 Kings xv. 29. 1 Chron. v. 26. the Ammonites, either by the consent or connivance of the Assyrian conqueror, took possession of their vacant country, to which they had no pretensions of right, so long as any of the ancient owners, or their posterity, were in being. The prophet Amos speaks of a similar proceeding of the Ammonites, attended with a circumstance of shocking barbarity; "They ripped up," says he, "the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border," Amos i. 13. But Amos prophesied before the Gadites were dispossessed by the Assyrian, as above mentioned, and is therefore supposed to have in view the time when Hazael king of Syria laid waste the same country, 2 Kings x. 33.—The LXX. here read *Gilead* for *Gad*; which indeed amounts to the same thing; for half Gilead was in the possession of the Gadites.—Our translators have rendered מלכיהם "their king," but I have followed most of the ancient versions in rendering it "Milcom," as the proper name of the chief Deity of the Ammonites, who is so called, 1 Kings xi. 5. And as this interpretation of the word seems most suitable here, so at ver. 3. it appears almost indispensable; see Note there. As JEHOVAH is said to have given his people Israel the lands they possessed, so the idolatrous nations considered their acquisitions as obtained by the favour of their respective idols. See Judg. xi. 24.

2.—And her daughters—] The lesser towns dependent upon the Metropolis are called "her daughters."

Ibid.—And Israel shall take to their possessions—] This is understood to have been fulfilled, when Judas Maccabeus defeated the Ammonites, and took their towns. 1 Mac. v. 6, &c. Zephaniah speaks in like manner, Ch. ii. 9. "the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them." But both prophets may perhaps refer to still future times, when Israel shall be finally restored to their own land, as is frequently foretold of them, and not only recover their own ancient possessions, but succeed likewise to the vacant possessions of their once hostile neighbours, long before extinct and irrecoverably lost.

3.—Ai is spoiled—] Ai must be a different city from that taken by

Joshua, Ch. viii, which lay on the west side of Jordan ; for all the country of Ammon lay on the east. Grotius mentions another city called *Gais* by Ptolemy ; which being near Heshbon, the destruction of it was matter of concern to the neighbouring city. *Jam proximus ardet Ucalegon.*

Ibid.---within the fences] By גדרות are meant those *fence*. or *inclosures* round the lesser towns, which served to secure them against thieves and robbers, but were not dignified with the name of *walls*, capable of resisting the attack of a regular enemy. The Psalmist distinguishes these from the fortifications of cities ; Ps. lxxxix. 41. "Thou hast broken down all his fences (גדרותי) ; thou hast brought his strong holds (מבצרים, his walled fortresses) to ruin." The inhabitants therefore of the lesser towns, the daughters of Rabbah, were destined to run to and fro like persons distracted with fear "within their inclosures," not daring to step beyond them, lest they should fall in with the enemy, whose approach they dreaded.

Ibid.---For Milcom shall go into captivity---] Here the same is said of Milcom, as was of Chemosh, Ch. xlviii. 7. which shews that *Milcom* is properly used as the name of the Ammonitish idol.---For ידדיו at the end of this verse twenty MSS. and two Editions read ידדו.

4.---Though thy valley be fruitful --] The text runs, "Fruitful thy valley"---but the same mode of expression is used Num. xxiv. 21. איתן מושבך, which our translators render, "Strong is thy dwelling place ;" but it certainly should be, "Let thy dwelling place be strong ;" for ושי, which follows next is a verb in the imperative mood, "And put thou thy nest in a rock." The whole is spoken by way of concession, "Be it so ; let thy dwelling place be strong, and put thy nest in a rock, if thou wilt, nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, &c." So here, "Let thy valley be fruitful," or, though it be so, yet glory not therein ; for notwithstanding its fertility, it shall be no security to thee against the terror that I shall bring upon thee.

Ibid.---That saith in her heart] These words are not in the text at present, but are found in one MS. of good note, in three of the oldest Editions, which read חאמרר בלבבך ; and in one MS. which reads חאומרר בלבבך. All the ancient versions express at least חאמרר. Compare Obad. v. 3.

5.---a terror---] פחד -- that is, an object of terror. The image (says Bishop Lowth in his Note on Isa. xxiv. 17.) is taken from a line strung with feathers of all colours, which fluttering in the air, scared and frightened the wild beasts into the toils, or pit, which was prepared for them.

Ibid.---every one before it] That is, before the terror.

7. CONCERNING IDUMEA] The destruction of Edom, or Idumea, is likewise foretold by Ezekiel, xxv. 12.—14. xxxv. 2, &c. Joel, iii. 19. Amos, i. 11, 12. and by the prophet Obadiah.

Ibid.---from the prudent] ממבנים for מבנים. An Ellipsis of the

preposition **נ** may, I think, be often observed; when the word begins with the same letter.

Ibid.—Hath their wisdom overshot itself? **סרר** signifies *to be redundant* or *luxuriant*, like the branches of a vine. Hence Dr Taylor has explained this passage, “Is their wisdom become luxuriant? Doth it shoot out into proud, vain, foolish conceit?” See Taylor’s Concordance.—Compare Obad. 7. 8.

8.—Retire deep for to dwell] The meaning of this is, that they should go into those deep caverns to hide themselves from the enemy, whither the people of those parts used to retire on the like occasions. See Judg. vi. 2. 1 Sam. xiii. 6. Isa. ii. 10, 19. and Bishop Lowth’s Note on the latter of those verses.

Ibid.—The time of his visitation] For **פּקדוֹתָיו** one MS. reads **פּקדוֹתָיו**, another **פּקדוֹתָיו**, and in a third the two last letters are upon a rasure. The Vulg. and Chald. countenance **פּקדוֹתָיו**, which is conformable to the usual mode of expression. See Ch. viii. 12. x. 15. xi. 23. xxiii. 12. xlv. 21. xlviii. 44. l. 27. li. 18. But besides the present instance there are two other exceptions, Ch. vi. 15. l. 31. See the Notes on both those places. Should however the true reading be **פּקדוֹתָיו**, I should rather consider **פּקדוֹתָיו** to be contractedly written for **פּקדוֹתָיו**, so as to be the noun plural *in regimine*, rather than the verb. The plural noun is sometimes used to denote an intense degree; and accordingly **פּקדוֹתָיו** might signify, *his sore visitation*.

9.—They shall not leave any gleanings] Our Translators have placed an interrogation here; but there is no sign of it in the original. The meaning is, that when the enemy came to spoil, they should meet with no interruption, but should glean quite clean, and leave nothing behind through haste. The same thing is expressed in the two next hemistichs, where it is obvious we should read **יִשְׁחָדוּ** instead of **וַיִּשְׁחָדוּ**; as the LXX. and Vulg. evidently did.

10. For—] So **כִּי** should here be rendered, and not, *But*. For the reason is here assigned for what was said in the preceding verse, that the Edomites should be totally stripped and plundered; “Because,” says JEROM, “I have exposed them naked and defenceless to the invaders.”

Ibid.—conceal himself] For **וַיִּחְבֹּר** twelve, perhaps fourteen, MSS. and one Edition, read **וַיִּחְבֹּר**. And this is no doubt one of the many places, where the **ח** and **א** are put by mistake for each other.

Ibid.—And there is nothing of him left] The sense of this, and of the following verse, has been sadly perplexed by a wrong combination of **עֲזָבָה**, which now stands at the beginning of ver. 11. but which being divided, and **עֲזָב**, or **עֲזָבָה**, given to the end of this verse, and the **ו**, as a mark of interrogation, prefixed to the next word **יִתְמַיֵּךְ**, so that the verse may begin with **וַיִּתְמַיֵּךְ**, a very clear and consistent sense is restored; the interrogations in ver. 11. amounting to an absolute negative.

12.—whose right it was not to have drunken] This must be under-

stood comparatively ; for it cannot be said, that the Jewish people did not deserve to be punished ; but in comparison with the Edomites, and other neighbouring nations, they were in a manner innocent, or rather less deserving of the evil that befel them. Compare Prov. xi. 31. 1 Pet. iv. 17, 18. Or their near relation to God might have appeared sufficient to exempt them from such rigorous treatment. See Ch. xxv. 29. Obad. ver. 16. There is a peculiar emphasis in the pronoun **הוא**, which follows, and denotes that Edom was HE, the very person, to whom the punishment was peculiarly due.

13.—a reproach—] The conjunction **ו** is placed before **לחזקתו** in three MSS. and in the LXX. and before both **לחזקתו** and **לחזקתו** in the Syr. and Vulgate. In the Editions of the LXX **לחזקתו** is omitted ; but in MS. Pachom. there is a word corresponding to it ; **εἰς ἀφαισμητον, καὶ εἰς ὀργιστον, καὶ εἰς καταρασιν.**

15. Behold—] Four MSS. among which is the ancient Bodleian No. 1. together with the LXX. omit **כי** at the beginning of this verse, where it is at least superfluous.

Ibid.—Contemptible among the men of whom thou art horribly afraid] One MS. after **בזוי** reads **אמתו**. “Contemptible art thou, or shalt thou be, among men.” In the book which the Jews called *Rabboth* (see Kennicot. Dissert. Gen. § 42.) instead of **בזוי באדם**, this place is cited thus, **בזוי אמתו**, as it stands in the text, Obad. ver. 2. But the true emendation here required is, to recal **תפלצתך** from the beginning of the next verse, and to connect it with this. **תפלצת** properly signifies *terror* or *trembling*, as is evident from the use of the verb in *Hithpahel*, Job ix. 6. So that *the men of thy terror* mean, according to a common Hebraism, those of whom thou art greatly afraid. In further justification of this construction it may be observed, that not only the sense and metre are improved by it, but a grammatical error saved. For according to the principles of grammar, it would be wrong to construct **תפלצתך** with **דשניא** on account of the difference of gender. The next verse proceeds afterwards exactly as Obad. ver. 3.

16.—within the incirclings of the rock] **בדוגי** is a word that occurs only here, in the parallel passage Obad. 3. and Cant. ii. 14. Our translators have rendered it “the clefts” of the rock, but for no other reason, as far as I can perceive, than because the context seemed to require such a sense. For it does not appear connected with any root in the kindred dialects, that has a signification like it. It seems rather to come from **דוג**, to *incircle*, and in that case may signify *the windings* or *incirclings* of the rock. Whether it may have been a mistake by transposition for **בדוגי**, or not, I will not pretend to say ; but such transpositions are often to be met with in the MSS ; and in one MS. this very word is written **בדוגי**, by a still farther protrusion of the *Vau*. Perhaps by *dwelling within the incirclings of the rock* may be intended the general situation of the cities and towns of Idumea, surrounded for the most part with steep rocks and mountains. But I am more inclined to think, that the circular extent or limits of the city *Selah* are particularly designed ; which city is spoken of as belonging to the Edomites, 2 Kings

xiv. 7. and there called, as it is here, **רֹבֵד**, THE ROCK, by way of eminence ; and by the Greeks, **ΠΕΤΡΑ**, for the same reason. Strabo describes it as “ built upon a plain and level surface, but fortified all round with the natural rock, being externally a steep precipice, but within having plenty of springs, that supply water for other uses, and for the purposes of gardening.” Lib. xvi. p. 779. **Καταί γὰρ ἐπὶ χαρμῇ τ' ἀλλὰ οὐκ ἐπὶ ἐπιπιδῶν, κυκλῶ δὲ πέτρα φεγγυμῶν, τὰ μὲν ἰκτὺς κερμαίνουσιν ἀπόλοιμιν, τὰ δ' αὖτος πηγὰς ἀφ' ὧν ἰχθυοὶς ὡς τὶ ὑδρεῖαι καὶ πηπνέαι.**

17.—and shall hiss---] See Note on Ch. xix. 8.

19. Behold as a lion cometh up, &c.] It has already been observed in a Note on Ch. xii. 5. that the river Jordan is subject to very rapid inundations, which force the wild beasts out of the thickets by the river side, and drive them to infest and disturb the neighbouring plains. We are here presented by way of similitude with the image of a Lion, thus driven from his covert, and running up with great force from the water towards the sheep-folds.

Ibid.---when I throw her into disorder] **וְרָגַעְתִּי** is considered as an adverb both in our English, and in the ancient versions ; but it has certainly the form of a verb ; and as I have already observed in Note on Ch. xxxi. 35. that **רָגַע** signifies to *agitate* or *disturb*, so I see no reason why we may not render **וְרָגַעְתִּי**, “ when I shall agitate” or “ throw her into disorder.” See afterwards Ch. l. 34. The similitude will hereby be rendered complete ; “ When I shall occasion a like commotion in her, Idumea, as a fierce and strong lion may be supposed to do in the sheepfolds, when he falleth upon them, then will I cause him (namely, the son of man, of whom it was said in the preceding verse, that he should not reside or sojourn in her) to run away from her, as the affrighted shepherds and their flocks from before the lion.”

Ibid.---And him that is chosen will I commission against her] That is, I will authorize him, whom I have selected for the purpose, to command the expedition against her. Nebuchadnezzar is here designed, as the commissioned agent against Idumea ; as Cyrus is meant, Ch. l. 44. against Babylon. **וְרָגַע** is used in the like sense Ch. li. 27. as **וְרָגַע** here.

Ibid ---who shall prescribe to me'] **וְרָגַע** properly signifies to direct or fix authoritatively what is to be done.

Ibid.---who is that shepherd---] That *leader* or *commander*, that can stand the brunt of an attack from me ? The word **רֹעֵה**, *shepherd*, is used, in correspondence with the sheepfolds before mentioned.

20. Surely they shall be dragged away from the little ones of the flock] Two reasons occur with great force against rendering with our Translators, “ the least of the flock shall draw them out ;” or as **וְרָגַע** properly signifies, “ shall drag them,” as dogs do dead carcasses, tearing and rending them. See Ch. xv. 3. The first is, that in order to express the superlative degree we should read **וְרָגַעְתִּי**, with the article prefixed. And secondly, it would be unnatural to speak of sheep or lambs dragging any other creatures about with violence. The text therefore I

think should be read thus, מַצְעִירֵי הַצֵּיִן יִסָּדְבוּ, and rendered, "they shall be dragged, or torn away, from the little ones of the flock," that is, from their wives and children.---After having made the above remark, I found that the same division of the words was suggested by Houbigant, but he makes מַצְעִירֵי הַצֵּיִן the subject of the verb; *raptabuntur parvuli gregis*. Either way the sense is a good one; which is preferable, I leave to the determination of the learned.

Ibid.--their habitation] Twenty seven MSS. and five Editions read נִוְיָהֶם in the plural. But the LXX, Syr. and Vulg. confirm the present reading of the text. If by "their habitation" or "habitations" we understand by metonymy the persons dwelling in them, or "their families," it will, I think, tend to confirm the interpretation I have proposed in the preceding part of the verse, "They shall be torn away from their wives and children by force, to the great amazement of their families and domestics, who shall be witnesses of the calamity."

21. It crieth out, at the Red sea is heard the voice thereof] For קוֹלָהּ thirty three, perhaps thirty five, MSS. and four Editions, read קוֹלֵם. But קוֹלָהּ certainly best suits with צַעֲקוֹ, which seems to be a verb agreeing with הַמֶּדֶן, as well as רַעֲשָׁה. But the LXX. evidently found no such word as either קוֹלָהּ or קוֹלֵם in their copy. Without it the sense would be complete, considering צַעֲקוֹ as the infinitive mood used as a substantive with the affix, to be thus rendered,

The cry thereof is heard at the Red Sea.

The similar passage Ch. l. 46. favours the rejection of קוֹלָהּ or קוֹלֵם.

22. Behold he shall mount and fly like an eagle] Compare Ch. xlviii. 40, 41.

23. CONCERNING DAMASCUS] Damascus was the capital of the kingdom of Syria, and had seemingly at this time swallowed up all the other petty sovereignties of that country. Isaiah had before uttered a prophecy concerning it of a calamitous import, Ch. xvii. which had been fulfilled by Tiglath-pileser's taking it, and carrying the people captives to Kir, 2 Kings xvi. 9. Amos also had foretold the same event, Ch. i. 3--5. But it had recovered itself after the fall of the Assyrian empire, and is here doomed to suffer again the like calamities from the resentment of Nebuchadnezzar, probably about the same time with the other neighbouring nations. See note on Ch. xlviii. 1.

Ibid.--Hamath is confounded, and Arphad] Hamath and Arphad are elsewhere joined together, see 2 Kings xviii. 34. xix. 13. Isai. x. 9. Hamath was the capital of a part of Syria bearing the same name, and which formed once an independent kingdom. It was situate on the northern frontier of the land of Israel, whence we find frequent mention of "the entrance of Hamath," Num. xxxiv. 8. &c. The city of Hamath, Josephus tells us, was that which the Macedonians afterwards called *Epiphania*. Ant. Lib. 1. Cap. 6. Ed. Hudson. And Jerome in his Commentary on Isai. x. 9. says the same; *Hemath, quam Syri usque hodie Epiphaniam vocant*.--Arphad or Arvad is with good reason held to be the island of *Aradus* in the Mediterranean sea; as

those who are called *דמארוי* Gen. x. 18. are by the LXX. rendered *Agadii*, and in the Vulgate, *Aradii*. This Island was not far from the shore, and nearly opposite to Hamath.

Ibid.---They are melted into a sea of solicitude---] This is a literal translation of the text, and appears to me preferable in sense to any of the interpretations which I have hitherto met with.

24.---Distress hath laid hold on her, And pangs---] It seems clear both from the grammar and metre, that the words *מחל'ים* and *מחל'ים* have been transposed in the text, as it stands at present. Compare Ch. l. 43.

25.---How have they not left her] This passage, which has occasioned much perplexity, may, I think, be rendered sufficiently clear by only supposing *עזב'ה* to be written for *עזבו'ה* an abbreviated mode of writing which often occurs. Both the Syr. and Vulg. render the verb in the third person plural; and four MSS. have supposed a suppression of the *ו*, but have supplied it in the wrong place, one reading *עזבו'ה*, and three *עזבו'ה*. The subject of *עזב'ה* would be the trembling, the distress, and the pangs, which are said in the preceding verse to have seized on Damascus, and as it follows here had left her in such a condition, as to be no longer what she used to be, "a city of praise, a city of my joy," or one which I can behold with satisfaction and delight.

26.---her broad places] Her open areas or squares. See Note on Ch. v. 1.

27. Ben-hadad] This seems to have been a common name for the kings of Syria: as Pharaoh was for those of Egypt.

28. CONCERNING KEDAR, AND CONCERNING THE KINGDOMS OF HAZOR] *Kedar* is well known to have been one of the sons of Ishmael, Gen. xxv. 13. who settled in Arabia. But of *Hazor* I nowhere find a satisfactory account given by the Commentators. There is indeed a city called *Hazor*, mentioned Josh. xi. 10. and in other parts of Scripture. But this was in the land of Canaan; whereas the kingdoms of *Hazor* here prophesied of were evidently in Arabia, in the neighbourhood at least of Kedar. But among the sons of Joktan, who were prior to the Ishmaelites in Arabia, and whose descendants are therefore looked on as the only genuine Arabs, we find one, whose name was *Hazor-Maveth*, Gen. x. 26---30. And as by Kedar all the descendants of Ishmael are probably here designed; so all the other branches of the family of Joktan may likewise be included under the general name of Hazor. And this leads me to observe it as the most probable reason, why the Arabians "that live in the desert" are called "a mingled people," or promiscuous multitude, Ch. xxv. 24. that they were thus made up of people of different descents; some of them being sprung from Joktan, others from Ishmael, to whom must be added the sons of Abraham by Keturah, who are also said to have been settled in Kedem, or the east-country, Gen. xxv. 6. and perhaps other families besides. All these were divided into petty sovereignties under chiefs called *Emirs*, and

others called *Shekhs*, which explains what is to be understood by “the kingdoms of Hazor.”

Ibid.—Kedem—] See Note on Ch. xxv. 24

29. Their tents, and their flocks—] The substance of most of these Arabians, who were Scenites, consisted in their tents, furniture, and cattle, with which they moved about from place to place, according as they could find pasture.

Ibid.—And let them bring upon them—] וקראו—Literally, “let them call for,” or command “their calamity” to come “upon them;” that is, occasion it. See 2 Kings viii. 1. Ps. cv. 16.

30.—Retire deep for to dwell—] See Note on ver. 8.

Ibid.—hath devised a device against you] For עליהם, which is certainly wrong, eighty MSS. perhaps eighty nine, and eight Editions, read עליכם; also forty nine MSS. and four Editions have it marked in the margin for a *Keri*. The LXX, Chald. and Vulg. render, “against you;” but the Syr. uniformly in both places of this verse, “against them.”

31.—They dwell apart by themselves] That is, their habitations are isolated; so I think ברוך ישבנו must here signify. They do not live in cities, towns, or villages, where the houses are contiguous: but each family has its mansion apart from the rest, with land about it sufficient for the subsistence of their cattle. In this dispersed state they were of course less provided with the means of defending themselves from the incursions of an enemy.

32.—of those that inhabit the insulated coast] The peninsula of Arabia, See Notes on Ch. ix. 26. xxv. 23.

34.—CONCERNING ELAM] ELAM we find to have been an independent and even powerful kingdom in the days of Abram. Gen. xiv. 1. But I am not of opinion with those writers who hold that by *Elam* in Scripture *Persia* is always meant. There is no doubt but that, when the monarchy of Persia was established under Cyrus, Elam was blended into, and formed a part of it. But before that time Elam and Persia were two distinct kingdoms: of which this may be admitted for proof, that the kingdom of Persia, if Xenophon may be credited as an historian, was never subdued under the dominion of Nepuchadnezzar, but preserved its liberty in alliance with the Medes. Elam on the contrary is not only here prophesied of, as destined to become a part of the Babylonian conquests, but is actually spoken of Dan. viii. 2. as a province of the Babylonish empire, over which Daniel seems to have presided, having Shushan for the seat of his government. We may therefore conclude Elam to have been, as the name itself would lead us to suppose, the country called by heathen writers *Ethymais*, which Pliny in conformity with Daniel, describes as separated from Susiana, by the river *Eulæus*, or *Ulay*; Nat. Hist. Lib. vi. Cap. 31. Strabo also gives it the same situation, and in two places mentions the wars it had carried on with the Susians and Babylonians. Lib. xi. p. 524. lib. xvi. p. 744. Shushan or Susa, was, properly speaking, the capital of Susiana; but

it is likely, that when the Babylonians in conjunction with the Susians conquered Elam, they might have annexed it to the government of Susiana, and so the provinces united might have gone indifferently by the name of either Elam, or Susiana. If so, Abradates, whom Xenophon styles king of the Susians, and who in the course of the war between the Babylonians and Medes revolted from the former, and joined the latter with his forces (Xenophon. Cyropæd. Lib. vi.) had Elam likewise, as well as Susiana, for his kingdom or government, conferred upon him by Nebuchadnezzar, who is said to have had an affection for him; and his revolt from the son of his benefactor will help us to account for the forces of Elam being joined with Media in besieging Babylon, as foretold by Isaiah, Ch. xxi. 2. whilst the province or country itself may have still remained in the hands of the king of Babylon, who may have entrusted Daniel with the administration of it; till on the final subversion of the Babylonish monarchy it was restored again to its former possessors, who had fought under the banners of the Medes and Persians; as is intimated ver. 39.

35.—the bow of Elam, the principal part of their strength] Isaiah speaks of the Elamites in this manner, Ch. xxii. 6. "And Elam bare the quiver." Strabo also says that the mountainous part of Elymais bred chiefly archers; *κρατιστας τριφυι, τοξοτας τις πλειους*. Lib. xvi. p. 744. And Livy speaks of *Elymæi sagittarii*; Lib. xxxvii. Cap. 40. Other heathen writers do the same.

36.—four winds—] By these we are to understand enemies directing their force against them from every quarter of the heavens.

Ibid.—Whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come] Two obvious mistakes are found here in the Text. The first is **אֶלֶם** in the singular number to agree with **אֲנִי** a plural subject. This however might be accounted for by the subject's being taken distributively; see Buxtorf. Thes. Gram. Lib. ii. Cap. 10. But eight MSS. read **אֶלֶם**, two have a letter erased at the end of **אֶלֶם**; and in the Notes of the celebrated Mantuan Edition, No. 300. it is found **אֶלֶם**.—The other mistake is **עֹלָם** for **עֵלָם**, which is corrected by the Masora, and is found right in the text of fourteen, perhaps nineteen, MSS. and three Editions.

37.—Until I have consumed them] In Van der Hooght's Edition we read **כִּלְיִי**; but thirty four MSS. and fourteen Editions read **כִּלְיִי**, as it is also found among the various readings collected at the end of Van der Hooght's Edition.

38.—I will set my throne in Elam] Nebuchadnezzar acting under the commission and authority of God, the establishment of his power was in effect the setting up of the throne or dominion of his principal.

39.—I will turn again the captivity of Elam] For **אֲשׁוּב** twenty, perhaps twenty one, MSS. and three Editions, together with the Masora, read **אֲשׁוּב**. And for **שְׁבִית** the Masora reads **שְׁבוּת**, with the concurrence of thirty one, perhaps thirty two MSS. and five Editions. See Note on Ch. xxix. 14.

CHAP. L.

THIS Chapter and the next contain a prophecy concerning the fall of Babylon, intermixed and contrasted with predictions concerning the redemption of Israel and Judah, who were not, like their oppressors, to be finally extirpated, but to survive them, and upon their repentance and conversion to be pardoned and restored. The prophecy was delivered and sent to Babylon in the fourth year of Zedekiah's reign, as appears from Ch. li. 59.

1.—AND CONCERNING THE LAND OF CHALDEA] Eleven MSS. and three of the oldest Editions read **לְכָן**, and the Syr. Chald. and Vulg. all express the copulative. In the Complutensian Edition of the LXX. we also find, *καὶ ἐπὶ γῆνι Χαλδαίων ἐν χερσὶ Ἰερμίου τοῦ προφήτου*, although in the other Editions of the LXX. all these words are omitted. The same words, exclusive of *καὶ* are in MS. Pachom.

4. But at that time—] I have detached the words **בְּיָמֵי חַחֲמָה** from the beginning of this verse, as thinking, that joined with **חַחֲמָה** they formed a very unmeaning tautology; that the word **חַחֲמָה** in the preceding verse seemed to begin a new hemistich, and to require something to complete both the sense and metre; that this was done by the addition of **בְּיָמֵי חַחֲמָה**; and moreover, that by rendering the particle **ו** in **וּבַעַת**, BUT, it well expressed the contrariety of the following passage to that which went before. See again, ver. 19, 20.—The preposition **ב** prefixed to time frequently signifies *after*; nor does it always limit the context to an immediate succession, as is evident from the use of **בְּיָמֵי חַחֲמָה** in Isaiah, and other prophetic writers. See in particular, Isa. iv. 2. xix. 18, 19. 23, 24. &c. &c. So that we might render **בַּעַת חַחֲמָה**, *after that time*. But *at*, or *in*, *that time*, will in the present instance amount to just the same, and denote, *during the time of Babylon's desolation*; which, being designed to be perpetual, will comprehend as well the time of the general restoration of Israel and Judah in the latter days, as that of their more immediate and partial return from Babylon. Which of these is here particularly intended, I do not pretend to decide; the terms made use of may in some degree coincide with both; and those who admit the double sense of prophecy may be inclined to understand both; whilst those who are of a different opinion are at liberty to choose which upon the comparison appears most satisfactory.

Ibid.—They shall go, weeping as they go along] Compare Ch. xxxi. 9.

5.—They shall come—] One MS. reads **יָבֹאוּ**, and so the Chald. and Vulg. seem to have done. The LXX. render *καὶ ἔξουσιν*, by which they seem to have read **יָבֹאוּ**.

Ibid.—in an everlasting covenant—] We find the Jews after their return from Babylon, in Nehemiah's time, entering into a covenant to walk in God's law, and to obey him. Neh. ix. 38. x. 1, &c. But by

the "everlasting covenant," I am more inclined to understand that of the gospel.

6.---have my people been---] The Masora with seventeen, perhaps eighteen, MSS. and three Editions, read **וְזִי** instead of **וְזִי**. Either reading is allowable.

Ibid.---Their shepherds have caused them to stray on the mountains] The meaning of this is, that their pastors and governors had led them to commit idolatry; of which the mountains were a principal scene. See Ch. ii. 20. iii. 6. 23. Ezek. vi. 3, 4. 13. xviii. 6. &c. &c.

Ibid.---Turning aside from mountain to hill] For **שׁוֹבְבִים** the Masora reads **שׁוֹבְבִים**, in which sixteen MSS. and two Editions concur. Six MSS. read **שׁוֹבְבִים**. But I see no objection to **שׁוֹבְבִים**, which has occurred twice before, Ch. iii. 14, 22. If we read according to the Masoretic emendation, **שׁוֹבְבִים** must be rendered, "They (that is, their shepherds) have caused them to turn aside; &c." But if we follow the received reading, the people themselves are said to have turned aside and gone from mountain to hill, varying the object or place of their idolatrous worship, and forgetting the sanctuary of JEHOVAH their God, where alone they ought to have set up their rest. See what follows in the latter part of the next verse.

7. The legitimate fold and recourse of their fathers] The LXX. have omitted **יִזְרוּ** at the end of this verse; and I think, rightly, as the repetition tends only to incumber the verse, and perplex the sense, which without it is extremely clear and complete. The allegory of sheep is still kept up. **מִקוֹר** signifies the place, whither they were accustomed to look up, and have recourse in all cases of danger or difficulty.

8. go ye forth] For **יֵצְאוּ** the Masora rightly reads **יֵצְאוּ**, which is also the reading of twenty two MSS. and two Editions. Compare Ch. li. 6, 45. Isa. xlviii. 20.

Ibid.---be ye like he-goats---] That is, set the example for others to follow.

9.---And will array them---] **וְיַעֲרֵבּוּ** is construed both by our Translators, and in the ancient versions, as the third person plural of the preter tense, with a sense as if it were in the Conjug. *Hithpahel*. But it seems rather to be the participle present in *Kal* with the affix, whose antecedent is **קָדַל**, and to be coupled by the conjunction **ו** prefixed with the two preceding participles, **מַעֲלִיז** and **מַעֲלִיז**.

Ibid.---Shall not return empty] That is without doing execution. See the same expression 2 Sam. i. 22. The verb **יָשׁוּב** in the singular joined to **וְיָצְאוּ**, a plural subject, distributes the subject, so as to denote that not one of their arrows should miss of their aim.

11.---ye shall have rejoiced---triumphed---be grown fat---neighed---] For **תִּשְׂמְחוּ**, **תִּעְלִיזוּ**, **תִּפְּשׁוּ**, and **וְתִצְחֲלוּ**, the Masora reads **תִּשְׂמְחוּ**, **תִּעְלִיזוּ**, **תִּפְּשׁוּ**, and **וְתִצְחֲלוּ**, which is more suitable to the context, and confirmed by all the ancient versions. Also eleven MSS. and four Editions read **תִּשְׂמְחוּ**; six MSS. and three Editions **תִּעְלִיזוּ**; five

MSS. and one Edition, חפשו, and ten MSS. and two Editions, חפשו; and fourteen MSS. and two Editions וחצרו.

Ibid.---like a heifer that treadeth] Twenty four MSS. and five Editions read רשד, instead of רש; and in one MS. the א is upon a rasure. This reading seems preferable to the common one; for by the law of Moses the ox was not to be muzzled when he trod out the corn, but allowed to eat freely; Deut. xxv. 4. by which high feeding he was likely to grow fat. Heifers are spoken of as used for the same purpose; Hos. x. 11.

Ibid.---neighed like steeds] So the margin of our English Bibles. And צור is elsewhere used for the neighing of a horse; but no where, as I know, for the bellowing of a bull. אביר also is more commonly used for war-horses, high-mettled steeds. See Ch. viii. 16. xlvii. 3. Judg. v. 22.

13.---she shall not be re-established] לא-תשב. I much question whether the verb שב in *Kaf* will admit of being rendered passively, *to be inhabited*. It signifies however, *to be*, or *abide*, in a stable permanent state. Ch. xvii. 25. Ps. cxxii. 5. cxxv. 1. And when spoken of cities that have been ruined and overthrown, it seems to denote their *settling again* after such a state of confusion and disorder, and *being re-established* in their former condition of tranquillity and civil polity. This, I think, will appear from considering it in the following passages. ver. 39. Isa. xiii. 20. Ezek. xxvi. 20. xxix. 11. xxxvi. 35. Zech. i. 11. ii. 4. vii. 7. ix. 5. xii. 6. xiv. 10, 11, &c. &c.

Ibid.---And shall hiss---] See Note on Ch. xix. 8.

14: Order ye---] Our Translators render ערכו, "Set yourselves in array," as if the verb had been in *Hithpahel*; but I think it rather means, "Order ye the bow," or direct it. See Ch. xlvi. 3.

15.---She hath surrendered herself] Literally, "She hath given her hand," no doubt, in token of subjection and homage. The phrase occurs in the same sense, 1 Chron. xxix. 24. Lam. v. 6. Some have thought it may be derived from the manner in which Abraham required his servant to engage to do what he required of him, by *putting his hand* under his thigh, Gen. xxiv. 2. and again, Jacob in like manner exacted the same of his son Joseph; Gen. xlvii. 29. But this seems to be rather a form of administering and taking an oath. *Dare manus* in Latin signifies *to yield*; and most probably alludes to the act of the vanquished, who, throwing down his arms, and stretching forth his defenceless hands, acknowledges himself to be in the victor's power.

Ibid.---her battlements---] The word in the text is אשירת; but it is corrected by the Masora, which reads אשיות, with the consent of twenty four MSS. and five Editions. The ancient Bodleian MS. reads אשות; two MSS. אשית; two אשות; one אשיות; one אשית. Amidst all this variety it is not easy to determine which is right; and no such word occurring elsewhere in Hebrew, the signification itself becomes uncertain. Our Translators render, "her foundations;" but the falling of foundations, which are laid in the

ground, is not very intelligible. The LXX. render *παλῆαι*, "the battlements;" and indeed it appears to me not improbable from the apparent connection of *אֲשִׁיּוֹת* with *אֵשׁ*, that *the battlements* may be meant, where *the men* stood and fought in defence of the walls; or perhaps the *turrets* filled with men, which were constructed in the wall at due distances. And in this sense we may understand the words *וַיִּשְׂמְרוּ יָרֵיחוֹ*, Ezra iv. 12. "They sewed together," or connected "the turrets," by building the wall in the intervals. Now *אֲשִׁיּוֹת* differs from *אֲשִׁיּוֹת* only in its Chaldee termination.

Ibid.—Because it is the avenging of JEHOVAH] This I take to mean, that it was the cause or quarrel of JEHOVAH, which they were engaged in, the avenging him of his enemies; on which account they were not to be slack in their execution.

17.—And this latter hath picked him to the bone] Our Translators have rendered *עָצְמוֹ*, "hath broken his bones;" because *עָצָה* signifies "a bone." But the usual signification of the verb *עָצָה* is, to be *strong* or *mighty* in doing any thing, or to *exceed* and *prevail* over another. The Syr. accordingly here renders, "hath been stronger than he;" as if *עָצְמוֹ* was the same as *עָצָה מִמֶּנּוּ*. But I think *עָצְמוֹ* may be rendered, "hath picked him to the bone," or "made him a mere bone or skeleton;" the latter prince having gone greater lengths in oppression than his predecessor.

19.—and Gilead—] The LXX. and Syr. seem to countenance *וּבְגִלְעָד* instead of *וּבְהַרְגִלְעָד*. But the article is sometimes used before *גִּלְעָד*, though it be a proper name; and we might here render "in the mountain of Ephraim and of Gilead." See Gen. xxxi. 21, 23, 25.

20. And at that time—] See note on ver. 4. The promise contained in this verse seems evidently to respect the Gospel times, and "the remnant that shall be saved according to the election of grace." Compare Ch. xxxi. 34. xxxiii. 8. Isa. lix. 20. Rom. xi. 5. 26, 27.

Ibid.—shall inquiry be made after the iniquity of Israel] Here we have the same construction as has been already taken notice of and accounted for in note on Ch. xxxv. 14.

21.—of bitternesses—] *מִרְתִּיבִים* and *פָּקַד* in this verse are both rendered by our Translators as proper names. And the latter is so considered by the Chaldee Paraphrast. But all the other ancient versions agree in representing *מִרְתִּיבִים* as an appellative, and *פָּקַד* as a verb. And as there is no certainty, and indeed little probability, that there were any places, to which these belonged as proper names, I see no reason for understanding them so. *מִרְתִּיבִים* is the Dual number of *מִרְתִּיבִי* which may signify either *bitterness*, or *rebellion*; and I am inclined to think that Babylon is called "the land of bitternesses," or "of redoubled bitterness," because it had proved such to the Jewish nation, whose country had been ruined, and the people held in slavery there.—The LXX. Syr. and Vulg. appear to have read *יִשְׁבִּי* for *יִשְׁבִּי*; which being admitted, the construction of *פָּקַד* as an imperative verb, and *רָרַב* as a noun in the vocative case, will perfectly suit the context both before and after.

Ibid.—their posterity—] אֲחֵרֵיהֶם—so the word often signifies: see Ch. xxxii. 40. Ps. xlix. 13, &c. &c.

25. For this is the work of the Lord—] For לֵאמֹר יְהוָה one MS. reads לֵאמֹר מֶלֶךְ; the ancient Bodleian MS. No. 1. לֵאמֹר only; and two other MSS. one of them ancient לֵאמֹר מֶלֶךְ. Upon these grounds, and for the same reasons as are assigned, Ch. xlii. 10. I have ventured here also to prefix the ל to the word יְהוָה.

26.—from end to end] Or, from one end to the other. So מֶקֶץ and מֶקֶץ מֶקֶץ seem to signify. See Ch. li. 16, 31: Gen. xix. 4. Isa. xlii. 10.

Ibid.—her fattening stalls] This is the proper sense of מִבְּתָרֶיהָ; and I conceive *her cities* to be meant, where the inhabitants were pampered like beasts fattened for the slaughter. See what follows in the next verse.

29. Commanders have proclaimed concerning Babylon] Our Translators have rendered רִבִּים, “archers;” all the ancient versions have rendered it “many;” and all make it the accusative following the imperative verb דַּשְׁמִיעוּ. But I rather think רִבִּים to signify the generals or commanders of the Medes and Persians, who are reported by those that brought the news to Sion to have given out public orders to their soldiers to act against Babylon in the manner hereafter specified. That רִבִּי signifies a *general* or *principal officer*, appears frequently in this book, where רִבִּי מַבְרָאִים is constantly rendered *captain of the guards*, although perhaps it should be, *commander in chief of the army*, or *soldiers*; for טַבָּחִים, *slaughter-men*, denote those whose profession it is to slay. See Note on Ch. xxxix. 3.

Ibid.—Let none of her escape] Literally, “Let there not be one escaped of her.” So the LXX. μη τις αὐτῆς ἀνασῶζομενος. Nor does there appear any deficiency in the text, although the Masoretes have supplied לוֹ after יָדִי, and are countenanced by twenty MSS. and five Editions, besides four MSS. which have מִלֵּטָו with two letters erased before it. But against the insertion of לוֹ it must be observed, that it tends to produce an error in the Syntax; for in that case מִלֵּטָו must be a feminine noun, which could not properly agree with יָדִי on account of the different gender.

31.—O proud one—] זָדוֹן is the abstract, *pride*; but is here used by metonymy for the concrete; and again in the next verse.

Ibid.—The time of thy visitation.—] All the ancient versions appear to have read עַת-פְּקֻדָּתְךָ; and so it actually stands in the first printed Edition; and two MSS. read פְּקֻדָּתְךָ. See Note on Ch. xlix. 8.

34.—So as to cause a commotion in the earth] This sense of דִּרְגִיעַ accords so well with the parallel hemistich, as to afford a fresh argument in favour of the explanation given of that verb in the Notes on Ch. vi. 16. xxxi. 35. xlix. 19.

35.—the Chaldeans] For כַּשְׂדִּים the ancient Bodleian MS. No. 1. and six more read כַּחַשְׂדִּים, and one has a letter erased before כַּשְׂדִּים. כַּשְׂדִּים signifies the province of Chaldea; as מִצְרַיִם does Egypt; and

I think it may be observed, that whenever "the Chaldeans" are intended, we always find the article **רַ** prefixed, unless excluded by some general rule.

36.---the impostors---] By **רַבִּידִים** are meant the pretenders to the knowledge of future events by astrology, or the arts of divination. See Isa. xliv. 25. The Syr. Chald. and Vulg. seem to have read **רַבִּיבִי**, "her impostors;" which carries a face of probability. The LXX. according to the Roman Edition, omit the four first words of this verse, but in the Complutensian we find, *Μαχηραὶ ἐπὶ τοὺς ποταμούς, α, ἀφ' ὧν ἔσονται.*

37.---upon her horses, and upon her chariots] It is not easy to account why the masculine affix is found in **סוּסֵי** and **רַבָּבוֹ**, nor to what antecedent they can be referred. It is obvious therefore that we should read **סוּסֵיהֶן** and **רַבָּבוֹהֶן**, in uniformity with the rest of the context. The MS. Pachom. of the LXX. renders *ἵππους αὐτῆς*, and *ἀρματα αὐτῆς*, and not *αὐτῶν*, as in the printed Editions.

38. A sword upon her waters---] Our Translators after the example of the Vulg. and others, have rendered **רַבֶּרֶב** in this place differently from the sense given to it in the preceding verses, as supposing that a sword has nothing to do with waters. But *the sword* is used metaphorically to denote either the instrument of divine vengeance generally, or the operations and effects of war in particular; in either of which senses it may be applied to *waters* as well as to *treasures*. And the allusion here is evidently to the stratagem of Cyrus, who drained off the waters of the Euphrates, which ran through the city of Babylon, by means of which his troops by night marched along the bed of the river, into the heart of the city, and surprised it.

39.---Therefore shall wild cats with jackals dwell, &c.] What ground there is for rendering **צִיִּים** and **אֵיִים** by these names, may be seen at large by consulting Bochart. De sacr. Animal. Par. I. Lib. iii. Cap. 12. and 14. Compare with this passage the parallel one, Isa. xiii. 19.---22. and see Bishop Lowth's Notes there.

Ibid.---she shall not be re-established] See Note on ver. 13.

42.---in orderly array---] See Note on Ch. vi. 28.

44. Behold, as a lion, &c.] See the Notes on Ch. xlix. 19. from which this verse differs only in the word **אֶרֶץ**, for which the Masora directs to read **אֶרְצֵי**, with the concurrence of fifteen MSS. and three Editions. In the parallel place we find **אֶרְצֵינוּ**, and the singular affix is understood to refer to *the son of man* mentioned in the preceding verse. Here where the affix is plural, both **אֶרֶץ** and **אֶרְצֵי** in ver. 40. must be considered as the antecedents; both *inhabitants* and *sojourners* being caused to run away from Babylon on account of the commotions that were raised there.

45.---against the inhabitants of Chaldea---] Four MSS. for **יָנֵק** read **יָשָׁב**; three MSS. and one in the margin, **יָשָׁב**; and the LXX. seem to have read thus, who render *ἐπὶ τοὺς κατοικοῦντας Χαλδαίους*. Or according to MS. Pachom. *ἐπὶ πάντα τοὺς κατοικοῦντας Χαλδαίαν*. The

Chaldee renders, עַל־יְיָ אֶרְעָא כְּמֹדַי, expressing both words, יָשָׁב and אֶרֶץ. This agrees with one MS. which with the first printed Edition reads יָשָׁב אֶרֶץ; and with two ancient Editions, which read יוֹשְׁבֵי אֶרֶץ. Compare the rest of the verse with the parallel place, Ch. xlix. 20, and see the notes there.

CHAP. LI.

1.--against those that dwell in the heart of mine adversaries] Instead of לִב קִמִּי, the LXX. render as if they had read כְּשָׂרִים, *Chaldea*. And the other ancient versions seem greatly perplexed, and differ in their interpretation of this passage. But לִב, "the heart," is used for the interior part, or midst, of any thing. See Deut. iv. 11. Ps. xlii. 2. &c. &c. Accordingly יָשָׁב לִב קִמִּי may fairly be understood to signify those that dwell in the heart, that is, the centre of the country of mine adversaries, of those that rise up against me; and is by circumlocution the same as Babylon itself.

2.--For they shall be--] It is probable that instead of כִּי־יִדְּוּ the original reading was כִּי־יִדְּוּ, the י having been lost in the concurrence with the same letter preceding. A mistake of which the collated MSS. afford many instances.

Ibid.--by the way side--] The two first words of ver. 3. as they stand in the present text, אֶל־יִדְּוּ, have greatly perplexed all the Commentators. The Masora admits יִדְּוּ only once; and it is not repeated in ninety four, perhaps ninety five, MSS. and three Editions. But this is not sufficient to clear away the difficulty. For the context seems to require a command to the enemies of Babylon to use their bows, and not a prohibition, which the particle אֶל denotes, when it precedes a verb. The LXX. begin the third verse with קִשְׁתוֹ יִדְּוּ, omitting אֶל־יִדְּוּ entirely. It seems however better to read אֶל־יִדְּוּ, and to join those words to the end of ver. 2. which will both afford a good sense, and complete an hemistich. For אֶל־יִדְּוּ, or אֶל־יִדְּוּ very properly signifies *in, or by, the way*; and to *be, or stand, against one in the way*, is to be ready to use force and violent opposition against him. See Numb. xxii. 22, 23. 31, 34.

3.--And let him not lift up himself in his brigandine] This is exactly parallel in sense to the preceding hemistich, if the posture of him that stoops to bend the bow be considered. For in using the large and strong steel bows, which could not be bent by the force of the arms, they rested one end upon the ground, and pressing the other with the foot or knee, they drew back the arrow with their hands as far as ever they could, in order that it might fly with greater force. Hence the archer is called קִשְׁתוֹ יִדְּוּ, *one that treadeth the bow*. And therefore when he is bid not to lift himself up in his coat of mail, it is the same as bidding him not to desist from shooting with his bow.

5. For Israel is not forsaken, &c.] DR DURELL supposes a transposition in the words, and that מִלִּדְּוּ should have preceded יִדְּוּ;

which indeed is a plausible conjecture, and the hemistich would run more completely thus,

For Israel is not forsaken of his God,
Nor Judah of JEHOVAH of hosts.

Ibid.—But their land is filled with a trespass offering] That **זשם** signifies a *trespass offering* made for the atonement of sin is evident from the common use of the word in Leviticus, and also from Isa. liii. 10. Therefore “the land being filled, or covered over, with a trespass offering” clearly denotes that the sin of it had been completely atoned for, and was accordingly pardoned.

6. That ye be not cut off in her punishment] Four MSS. read **ואל**; and the LXX. also express the conjunction.—That **עון** signifies *punishment* of iniquity, as well as *iniquity* itself, may be seen in many instances. See 1 Sam. xxviii. 10. Ezek. xiv. 10. &c. &c.

7. Babylon is a golden cup in the hand of JEHOVAH] In what sense Babylon is called a *cup*, may be seen by comparing Ch. xv. 15. She was a splendid instrument of vengeance ordained by God against the neighbouring nations; and as all these had suffered by her, all are represented as ready to glory over her, or to rejoice, when her turn of suffering came.

9. We have applied remedies to Babylon---] The nations that had been subject to Babylon are evidently the speakers here; they had endeavoured, they say, to support her sinking cause, but all in vain; and therefore as the case was desperate, they advise every one to shift for himself.—Five, perhaps six MSS. and three Editions, for **נרפאות** read **נרפאות**; one MSS. a pretty ancient one, reads **ברפאות**, an evident mistake for **נרפאות**; which is doubtless the reading that might be expected.

10.—our deliverances] This is still spoken in the name of those subdued nations, who, conscious of receiving from the interposition of JEHOVAH so mighty a deliverance from a state of servitude, propose going to Sion to make their due acknowledgments to him in the place appropriated to his worship, and own him for their God.—For this scripture sense of **צדקת**, see Taylor’s Key to the Apostolic writings; Ch. xvi.

11.—fill the quivers---] So the LXX. Vulg. Castalio, and others, interpret **שלש** both here and Ezek. xxvii. 11. And the word is generally so understood in the Syriac version.

12. Before the walls of Babylon] Our Translators, with the generality of interpreters, seem to have understood this as an address to the inhabitants of Babylon, calling upon them to stand upon their own defence; but they have been obliged to suppose it ironical, as against the declared purpose of God their efforts could be of little avail. But I am persuaded that the address is rather directed to the enemies of Babylon, who are exhorted to encamp before the walls, setting up their standards, and to commence the siege by strengthening their posts around, so as to prevent succours from entering the city, or the effects of any ally

of the garrison. See Ch. iv. 16, 17. And by **וְהַמְּאַרְבִּים** are doubtless meant those, who were to be in readiness, when occasion offered, to enter the city by stratagem, and surprize it, as Gobryas and Gadatas did. See Xenophon. Cyropæd. Lib. vii. Herodot. Lib. i. cap. 191.

13.---O thou that dwellest---] For **שְׁכֵנְתִי**, the Masora, three MSS. and one Edition read **שְׁכֵנָה**; the Babylonish Talmud **שׁוֹכֵנָה**.

Ibid.---O handmaid of thy covetousness] That is, "Thou that hast devoted thyself, as a slave, to the gratification of thine inordinate desires, thy ambition and avarice." This interpretation is perfectly easy and natural; although the generality of Commentators have by **אָמָה** understood "the cubit," or "measure of thy covetousness;" which is applying a measure to that which is represented as immeasurable. The sense however in which they wish it to be taken is, that God had set a limit or bound to her inordinate ambition, which had now run its full length. But this appears to be a very constrained use of the word *Cubit*.

15---19.] These verses are transcribed from Ch. x. 12.---16. See the Notes there.

16.---from the extremity of the earth] Thirteen, perhaps fourteen, MSS. here read **מִקְצֵרֵי הָאָרֶץ**; which perhaps may signify, not "the horizon," as suggested in Note on Ch. x. 13. but "from one end of the earth to the other." See Note on Ch. l. 26.

19. And Israel is the rod of his inheritance] **וְיִשְׂרָאֵל** is not here in the present text, but is found in twenty two MSS. in the Chald. and Vulg. and in MS. Pachom. of the LXX. conformably with Ch. x. 16.

20. O battle-ax---] The army of the Medes and Persians is most probably here intended; as elsewhere the instrument of God's vengeance is called *a sword, a rod, a scourge*.

25.---O destroying mountain---] Any nation or prince, that rises in power above others, may be called metaphorically, "a mountain;" and the Babylonish nation is accordingly here to be understood by "the destroying mountain." "The rocks," from whence it was to be rolled, were its strong holds. And in the next verse, where it is said, "they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner stone, or for foundations," we may understand thereby, that they should no longer have kings and governors taken from among themselves, but should be under the dominion of foreigners.

27.---Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz---] The two former of these Bochart reasonably concludes to be the greater and lesser Armenia; and the latter to be a part of Phrygia near the Hellespont, Phaleg. Lib. i. Cap. 3. and Lib. iii. Cap. 9. Concerning the latter Homer seems to speak, Iliad β. 862.

Φοργυς αὐ Φρυγίας ἦν, καὶ Ἀρκαρίας θινυμένη,
Ταλ' ἐξ Ἀρκαρίας.

And that both the Armenians and Phrygians composed part of the army which Cyrus led against Babylon, may be seen in Xenophon. Cyropæd. Lib. iii. and Lib. vii.

Ibid.---Commission a commander] Grotius supposes מַמְסָר to be a transposition of the Persian *Satrap*. See his note on the place.

Ibid.---cavalry---like the bristled locust] Locusts are said to have the appearance of horses and horsemen, Joel ii. 4. Rev. ix. 7. Bochart speaks of the head and face of the locust as resembling that of a horse. De sacr. Animal. Part II. Lib. iv. Cap. 5. Or they may be compared on account of multitude, as ver. 14. The LXX. seem so to have understood it. See Nahum iii. 15. But the epithet *hairy* or *bristled* seems to indicate the former ground of similitude.

28.---The king of Media, &c.] The LXX. appear to have read מֶלֶךְ in the singular number; and this accounts for the affix of מְשַׁלְתּוֹ, which has the king for its antecedent, whilst the feminine affixes of פְּחוֹתֶיהָ and עֲבֹתֶיהָ are to be referred to מֶדֶי, Media.

29.---the purpose---] Eight MSS. read מְדַשְׁבֵּת, and all the ancient versions, except the Chald. express the noun in the singular number.

30. Her habitations are burned] So the LXX. Chald. and Vulg. render; and one MS. reads נִצְתּוּ. But such would the sense be also, were we to read נִצְתּוּהָ, "they have burned," the subject being indefinite. See ver. 32.

31. Courier shall run to meet courier, &c.] That is, they shall run from different parts, and so fall in with one another, all carrying the same intelligence to the same person, that the city was taken on the side every one came from. This is a very natural description of what may be supposed to happen on a city being taken by surprize in the middle of the night; for as fast as the alarm spread, people would be posting away with the news from all parts to the head quarters. And Herodotus tells us, that, on account of the greatness of the city, the extreme parts of it were taken some time before those who lived in the middle knew of the attack. Lib. i. Cap. 191.

32.---the passages---] These were most probably the entrances into the city from the river side, which were secured by gates, that ought, as Herodotus observes, to have been fast barred; which, if it had been done, would have effectually frustrated the attempt of the enemy; but being left open and unguarded on account of the public festivity, the assailants were in possession of those entrances, and in the heart of the city, before the besieged were aware of it. Herodot. Lib. i. Cap. 191.

Ibid.---the porches---] The word אֲגָמִים signifies *lakes*, or *pools of standing water*, which some understand to be the marshes or overflowed lands around Babylon; but how these could be burned with fire, I cannot conceive. Our translators render אֲגָמִים, "the reeds;" but what end could be answered by burning the reeds in the bed of the river as they went along? This could only serve to defeat the purpose of those, whose aim was to get into the city, before the people within had received the least alarm. Others interpret it of burning the out-works belonging to the marshy grounds about the river. But we do not read of any such thing having been done or attempted, at least in the night that Babylon was taken; the sudden occurrences of which night are the subject of the intelligence here said to have been hastily

carried to the king. Under these circumstances of difficulty, I cannot help suspecting that **מִמְנֵי** has been written by mistake for some other word; and would propose to read **מִמְנֵי**, *the vestibules, or porches* of the houses, upon the following grounds. When Cyrus's troops were once in possession of the avenues or entrances from the river, their next care would of course be to provide for their passing along in safety. But in a speech which Xenophon represents Cyrus to have made to his soldiers previous to their setting forth, he states, that "possibly some of them might be afraid of being annoyed, as they passed along the streets, by weapons cast upon them from the tops of the houses; but for this, says he, we have a remedy at hand. For the vestibules or porches of their houses may easily be burned from the materials they are built of; so that by applying fire to them, we may soon force the citizens to quit their houses, or be consumed in them," *Cyropæd. Lib. vii.* Now these harangues are never understood to be genuine, but to be of the historian's invention, the matter being suggested by the events which are known to have happened. So that we may fairly presume, that this measure of firing the houses was actually taken by the soldiers who entered the city, both to secure themselves a safe passage, and to cause the greater confusion among the inhabitants. And thus the circumstances of the account will be found to follow in due order, the city taken, the avenues seized, the advanced buildings of the houses set on fire, and the defendants thrown into such consternation, as to be incapable of making any resistance.

33.--The time of cutting short in her] That *the time of harvest* should be spoken of as subsequent to *the time of threshing*, is not very natural. But **קָצַר** seems rather to be the infinitive *Hiphil* of the verb **קָצַר**, and to allude to the manner of threshing with a drag or wain armed with iron teeth, or serrated wheels, which not only forced out the grain, but at the same time cut the straw in pieces for fodder; whereas **דָּרַר** denotes the treading out of the corn by oxen. See Bishop Lowth's Note on Isa. xxviii. 27, 28.

34.--hath devoured us, hath destroyed us, &c.] The Masoretes with all the ancient versions, represent the five verbs in this verse as followed by the affix in the first person singular. Also for **אֲכָלָנוּ** four, perhaps seven, MSS. and three Editions, read **אֲכָלָנִי**; for **דָּמְמוּנוּ** six, perhaps nine, MSS. and three Editions, read **דָּמְמוּנִי**; for **דָּחַצְנוּנוּ**, four, perhaps six, MSS. and three Editions, read **דָּחַצְנוּנִי**, and one, **דָּחַצְנִי**; for **בָּלַעְנוּ**, six, perhaps ten, MSS. and three Editions, read **בָּלַעְנִי**; for **דָּרְסוּנוּ**, twelve, perhaps fifteen, MSS. and three Editions, read **דָּרְסוּנִי**. But the commonly received reading of the text seems at least as likely to be right, and is perhaps in itself preferable; Sion and Jerusalem, which are both expressed in the next verse, being speakers here. All the emendation necessary seems to be the reading of **מֵעֵדֵנוּ** for **מֵעֵדָנִי**, which is pointed out by the ancient Bodl. MS. No. 1. and by three, perhaps six more, which read **מֵעֵדָנוּ**. An allusion is perhaps designed to the ejection of the first human pair out of paradise; in which case we might render with great beauty, as well as precision, "From our Eden (or, paradise) hath he cast us out."

35.---his violences done to my flesh] For **וְשָׂאֵרִי וְדָמִי** I propose to read **וְדָמִי וְשָׂאֵרִי**, "the injuries done by him to my flesh," that is, to my own person, or my nearest kindred.

38. They are roused---] **נִעְרָו** is probably written by contraction for **נִעְרָוּ**, and the LXX countenance this by the word **ἐγείραντο**, though improperly put in the place of **ἐγείραν**. The Syr. and Vulg. appear to have read **וְנִעְרָו** or **וְנִעְרָוּ**; and the **ו** may possibly have been sunk in the same letter at the end of the preceding word. This and the two following verses seem to describe the carousing and jollity, in the midst of which Babylon was taken. See Herod. Lib. i. Cap. 191. Xenophon Cyropæd. Lib. vii. compared with Dan. v.

39.---I will supply them with drink] Our translators render **מַשְׂתֵּיהֶם** "their feasts," but all the ancient versions render it in the sense I have given, "their drink;" which agrees with the use of the word, Dan. i. 5, 8, 10, 16.

Ibid.---that they may exult---] "They drank wine," says the historian, "and praised the gods of gold, &c." whilst they triumphantly made use of the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of God at Jerusalem, Dan. v. 3, 4.

41. --Sheshach---] That Babylon is meant by Sheshach, is certain; but why it is so called, is yet matter of doubt. See Note on Ch. xiv. 26.

42. The sea is come up over Babylon] By *the sea* any large collection of waters is denoted, and in particular the river Euphrates, ver. 36. so that the fate of Babylon is here alluded to; concerning which see ver. 64. Isa. xiv. 23. and Prideaux's Connections, Part i. Book 2.—Others by *the sea* understand metaphorically a numerous army, and by the overspreading of waters, the invasion and conquest of the country.

43.—and a wilderness—] **וְעֵרְבֹת אֶרֶץ**—Neither the LXX. nor Syr. acknowledge **אֶרֶץ** this second time, nor is it found in two MSS. It could not well stand here, as represented in the Vulgate and our English translation, without changing **בֹּרֶךְ** into **בֹּרֶה** twice in the following part of the verse. This is not done in any of the collated MSS. except only that one MS. for **בֹּרֶךְ** in the second instance reads **בֹּרֶה**. I conclude therefore, either that **אֶרֶץ** has been repeated by the Transcriber's mistake, or that we should read by transposition, **וְעֵרְבֹת וְאֶרֶץ**.

44.—that which he hath swallowed] Meaning, no doubt, the offerings made him out of the spoils of the conquered countries, and more particularly the sacred vessels out of the temple of Jerusalem, which Nebuchadnezzar had placed in the temple of his god. 2 Chron. xxxvi. 7. Dan. i. 2. Ezra i. 7.

46.—for the rumour shall come in a year, &c.] This seems to be an idiomatic phrase, denoting that terrifying rumours should continue year after year.

Ibid.—And violence in the land, Ruler against Ruler.] One MS. and two ancient Editions read here **שָׁוָר וְדָמָה**, Devastation and vio-

lence ;” and in the supplemental additions of Origen marked with Asterisks in Grabe’s Edition of the LXX. we find, *ταλαιπωρία και αδικια εν τῇ γῇ*. It is possible that the consequences of the war between the two adverse powers of Babylon and Media, during which the dominions of the former were subjected to the miseries of foreign invasion, may alone be here intended. But Berosus the Chaldean historian, as cited by Josephus Contra Apion. Lib. i. gives an account of civil violences and disorders that were committed in the land after the death of Nebuchadnezzar, whose son Evilmerodach was after a short reign murdered, and his throne usurped by one of his subjects. The usurper’s son, who succeeded him, was also murdered in his turn, and the kingdom restored to the lawful heir ; and all this happened in the course of a few years previous to the foreign invasion. These therefore, I think, are more likely to be the violences in this passage alluded to, and introduced as the forerunners of still greater devastations.

47. After this—] לכן—See Note on Ch. xvi. 14.

Ibid.—And all her slain shall fall in the midst of her] This phrase seems designed to intimate, that after the disorders beforementioned, the land of Babylon should itself become the seat of war, since those of her that were slain in battle were to fall in the bosom of their own country, מותוהא. See ver. 4.

48. When from the north there shall come against her, &c.] For מן צפון there is no doubt but that the true reading is מן צפון, by a transposition of letters. So it stands in four, perhaps five, MSS. In two printed Editions מן צפון. The Syr. Chald. Vulg. Arab. and one of the Greek interpreters preserved in the Hexapla, represent also the verb in the plural.

49. So through Babylon have fallen slain of the whole earth] The reason is here assigned, why the heavens, and the earth, and all that were therein, should rejoice at the fall of Babylon, because not only the people of Israel, but of the whole earth likewise, had been greatly annoyed by the power of that ambitious nation.

50. Ye that are escaped from her sword] Instead of מן חרב רוצחין I propose to read מן חרב רוצחין ; for מן חרב is the imperative, and not רוצחין. “ Her sword” means the sword which wasted Babylon.

Ibid.—gain possession of your heart.] Let it be a prime object of your affection and desire. See notes on Ch. iii. 16. vii. 31. xlv. 21.

53.—shall have fenced high her strength] That is, “ shall have carried up her strong walls to a great height.” That the walls of Babylon were of a prodigious height and thickness, Herodotus tells, who says they were two hundred Cubits high, and fifty Cubits in breadth. Lib. i. Cap. 178.

55.—destroyeth from out of her a great voice] When cities are populous, they are of course noisy. See Isa. xxii. 2. Silence is therefore a mark of depopulation ; and in this sense we are to understand God’s destroying or taking away out of Babylon the great noise, which during the time of her prosperity was constantly heard there ; “ the busy

hum of men;" as the poet very expressively calls it. In this manner the mystical Babylon is threatened, Rev. xviii. 22, 23. Compare Ch. vii. 34. xvi. 9. xxv. 10.

56.—And every one of her bows broken] The Syr. and Vulg. appear to have read וזרותה, with the conjunction.

58.—The wall of Babylon, the broad one,—] For חומות, "walls," four MSS. read חומה, and seventeen MSS. with five Editions read חומה, which agrees with the LXX. and Vulg. where "the wall" is expressed in the singular number. The adjective חורבנה seems to be added by way of marking it out as a ground of astonishment, that a wall of such a breadth, or "broad as it was," should notwithstanding be utterly razed. So חומשגב also seems to be used, 'Ch. xlviii. 1. "It is confounded, high fortress though it be—" Modern Travellers assure us, that not the least vestiges of this immense wall are to be found; and how this may be accounted for, see in Bishop Lowth's Note on Isa. xiii. 19.

Ibid.—to the utmost extent of annihilation] בדידות—We have before observed in Note on Ch. xxxvi. 18. that די signifies *the full extent and measure* of any thing. So that בדידות signifies literally, "to the full extent," or "utmost degree, of emptiness;" and refers to the razing of the walls, on which it is said that people should labour, till they had left the spot quite void and bare, where they stood. In like manner בדידות signifies "to the full extent, or ability, of fire," and refers to the burning of the gates, which should be done as completely as it was in the power of fire to do it; to which is added, ויעזבו, implying that the persons concerned in executing this work of destruction should employ their whole strength in it, till they were quite exhausted with fatigue.

59.—on the behalf of Zedekiah] מן, is rendered *propter* by the LXX. and signifies, "from him," "on his behalf," or "by virtue of his commission;" for we have no reason to suppose that Zedekiah went in person to Babylon at that time. See את used much in the same sense, Ch. xxxiii. 5. and the Note there. See also Gen. xlix. 25.

Ibid.—for Seraiah carried a present.] In these words is specified the business on which Seraiah was sent. He was employed to carry the present, or customary tribute, which Zedekiah was obliged to pay to the king of Babylon in acknowledgment of his subjection and vassalage. That this is the sense of מנוריה cannot be doubted, if we compare Jud. iii. 15. 1 Sam x. 27. 2 Sam. viii. 2, 6. 1 Kings iv. 21. 2 Kings xvii. 3. 2 Chron. xvii. 5, 11. xxvi. 8. xxxii. 23. Ps. lxxii. 10. &c. &c. מן is usually considered as a noun, and rendered, *a prince* or *chief*; and in this sense might here be understood as the person who was chief of the embassy, or had the principal charge of the present. Καὶ Σαραίας ἀνεχὺν δαπάνην. LXX. But we find מן used Isa. lvii. 9. in the sense of *going to*, or *visiting a person with a present*. See Bishop Lowth's Note on that verse, where he assigns the reason why מן, *to visit*, is equivalent to *making a present*. We may therefore render מן מנוריה, "carried, or was the bearer of, a present."

62.—but there shall be perpetual desolation] The ancient versions seem all to have read שממה in the singular, instead of שממות in the plural number; and the verb תחזור requires it so; for it cannot have חזקו for its subject on account of the gender. שממות would require תחזינה.

63.—thou shalt bind a stone to it, and shalt cast it into the middle of Euphrates] Compare Rev. xviii. 21. This may call to mind a similar action related by Herodotus of the Phocæans, who having resolved to leave their country, plunged a mass of iron into the sea, and swore never to return thither, till that mass rose again from the bottom. Lib. i. Cap. 165.

----- Simul imis saxa renarint

Vadis levata, ne redire sit nefas.

Hor. Epod. xvi. 25.

64.—which I bring upon her] After these words we read in the text, ויעפר. But this is not to be met with in the translation of the LXX; nor does it appear to me to be authentic, notwithstanding the concurrence of the later versions and MSS. The sense is entire and complete without it; and the addition serves only to cause perplexity and confusion. The word seems to have been added by some Transcriber, whose eye was caught by it at the close of the preceding paragraph, ver. 58.—The Vulgate seems to have read ויעפר which would be more tolerable, as it might then be referred to Babylon, and rendered, “for it shall be exhausted,” or “wearied out.”

Ibid. THUS FAR THE WORDS OF JEREMIAH] These words seem to notify that the following Chapter is not to be attributed to Jeremiah. They are not found in the LXX. where indeed they could not have been introduced at the end of this Chapter at least, because the Chapters are ranged differently in that version, and this makes only the xxviiith of the collection. By whom, or when the Chapters were digested in the order we now find them in the Hebrew Bibles, is uncertain. The disposition, for any thing which appears, is arbitrary, and on many accounts unlikely to have been made under the direction of the prophet himself. But when, or by whomsoever the disposition was made, it is most probable that the foregoing words were subjoined at the same time, and by the same person.

CHAP. LII.

THIS Chapter was confessedly added by some one after Jeremiah's time, probably by Ezra, or whoever he was that revised the sacred writings after the return of the Jews from Babylon, and collected them into one body. It contains a brief history of the captivity, nearly the same word for word, as it is related in the second book of Kings, Ch. xxiv. 18—20. and Ch. xxv. together with some few additions. Some have supposed it placed here as a proper introduction to the Book of Lamentations. But more probably the design was, by immediately subjoining this historical narrative of the desolations of the Jewish nation

to the predictions of Jeremiah concerning them, to hold forth a nearer view of the exact accomplishment of the divine word of prophecy.

1.---Hamital---] The Masoretes for לַמֶּלֶךְ both here and 2 Kings xxiv. 11. propose to read לַמֶּלֶךְ, with the concurrence of the Chaldee Paraphrast, twenty MSS. and four Editions. But the LXX. who certainly followed Copies more ancient than were within the reach of those Critics, or than any now extant, Ἀμεινταλ, and the Vulgate, *Amital*. I see therefore no sufficient cause for altering the received reading of the text.

3. For it was so because of the anger of JEHOVAH against Judah and Jerusalem] The particle כִּי is here causal, and assigns a reason for what went before, namely, why Zedekiah succeeded Jehoiahim both in the throne and in wickedness. This happened, it is said, "because of the anger of JEHOVAH;" not that JEHOVAH instigated either them or any man else to do wickedly; but the thing was of his special order and appointment, for the punishment of a wicked people, that men of such perverse and evil dispositions were advanced to be their kings. For having determined, as it is said, 2 Kings xxi. 11,—16. to execute a signal vengeance upon Judah and Jerusalem for the very heinous provocations he had received during the reign of Manasseh, he first of all removed the good Josiah out of the way, out of respect to whose piety he would not bring the evil in his days; and thus opened the succession to his sons, the badness of whose principles favoured the designs of God's justice, and led them to pursue measures equally fatal to themselves and their country. For from hence it flowed, that to their other wicked and sinful actions they added one no less impolitic than profligate, that of rebelling against a prince, to whom they were engaged by all the ties of religion, honour, and gratitude; one who had power to crush them, and who exercised that power with the most unrelenting severity. Thus truly might it be said of the people of Judah in the words of the prophet Hosea, Ch. xiii. 11. "God gave them kings in his anger, and took, or applied, them to the purposes of his indignation;" which indeed is but another way of expressing the sense here intended, namely, that it, Zedekiah's succession and wicked reign, was the consequence of the anger of JEHOVAH against Judah and Jerusalem, and designed finally to terminate in his removal of them out of his sight.---Our translators have represented זִדְּתָהּ as used absolutely, making the words that follow dependent thereon, thus: "it came to pass—that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon." But in this case the verb is always masculine. But where the verb is referred to an antecedent, and that antecedent not expressed by a particular noun, but virtually contained in the sense of a whole proposition or sentence that has preceded, which I judge to be the case here, there the verb is used in the feminine. Of this there is a double instance Isai. xiv. 24. where not only the verbs זִדְּתָהּ and תִּקְוֶה, but the pronoun הִיא, are feminine, in reference to such an implied antecedent; for no other can certainly be found. See also Note on Ch. xlii. 16. and compare Judges xiv. 4. 2 Kings xii. 15. 24. 2 Chron. x. 15. xxii. 7. xxv. 20.

6. in the fourth month---] Here the text supplies **בחדש חרביני**, which words are wanting in 2 Kings xxv. 3.

7.---fled, and went out of the city] Here we find **יברחו ויצאו מחוציר**, which words are not to be found in the text 2 Kings xxv. 4. But there seems to be a mistake in **יברחו**, which either ought to have been **ויברחו**, as Ch. xxxix. 4. or simply **ברחו**. In one MS. a letter is erased before **ברחו**.

Ibid.---the gate between the two walls] See Note on Ch. xxxix. 4.

9.---and he proceeded judicially against him] See Note on Ch. xxxix. 5. One MS. reads **ויברו**, as 2 Kings xxv. 6.

11.---in prison] **בבית-העקרת**—The Masora, and four MSS. read here **בית** instead of **בית**. But no alteration seems needful; as it is observed by Houbigant, that the **ב** is not omitted after **נתן**, when the words **נתן בית** occur.

12.---on the tenth [day] of the month] In the parallel place, 2 Kings xxv. 8. we read **בשבעה**, “on the seventh,” instead of **בעשור**, “on the tenth.” This difference some attempt to reconcile by supposing that one may speak of the day Nebuzaradan set out from Riblah, and the other of the day that he arrived at Jerusalem; or else that he came on the seventh, but did not set fire to the buildings till the tenth. But it is more likely to have arisen from some mistake of the transcriber, perhaps in setting down the numbers at length, which were expressed by numeral letters in the old copies. And in this instance such a mistake might easily happen between the **ז** and the **י**, of which the first stands for *seven*, the latter for *ten*.

Ibid.---it was the nineteenth year, &c.] One MS. here, and two MSS. in 2 Kings xxv. 8. read **זר** for **זר**, as if to agree with **זר** in gender. But **זר** is feminine, agreeing with **שנת**, as Ch. xxv. 1. xxxii. 1. The year had been before specified according to Zedekiah's reign, ver. 5. and this marks the corresponding year of Nebuchadrezzar's reign.

Ibid.---one that stood in the presence of the king of Babylon] In 2 Kings xxv. 8. for **עמד לפני** we read **עבד**, “a servant;” but the difference is in the words only, and not in the sense. For the first signifies “an attendant upon the king's person,” one that stands ready to receive and obey his orders. So Gabriel says of himself, Luke i. 19. “I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God, and am sent to speak unto thee.” And Ch. xl. 10. Gedaliah professeth himself in like terms a servant of the Chaldeans, saying that he should dwell at Mizpeh, **לעמד לפני רכשדים**, “to stand before the face of the Chaldeans,” that is, to receive and execute their commands.

13.---even every great house] So I think we should here translate; for according to our present English translation there is a tautology in saying, “all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house.” But the latter words seem to be added by way of correction or restriction of the former; as much as to say, if not all the houses literally, yet every great house at least that was in any respect considerable.

And this is more likely than that he should put himself to the trouble of setting fire to all the little paltry dwellings of the poor. The LXX. and Vulgate render חֲדָדִים as the adjective of בֵּית.

15. And some of the poor of the people] וּמִדֵּלֵי דָעָם—These words are not found in the parallel places, Ch. xxxix. 9. 2 Kings xxv. 11. and are wanting in one MS. here.

Ibid.—even the remains of the multitude] For דִּמְיוֹן three MSS. here read דִּמְיוֹנִין, as in the parallel place, 2 Kings xxv. 11. and by דִּמְיוֹנִין may be understood the great multitude that formerly inhabited Jerusalem, of whom a few only survived, called “the remains of the multitude.” These remains were before distinguished into “the people that were left in the city,” or had continued there till the city was taken, and “the deserters” that had joined the Chaldeans during the siege, and are now concluded under one general name, “the remains of the multitude,” or populace. In Ch. xxxix. 9. they are called אֵת־יֹתֵר דָּעָם חֲנֻשָּׁאִים, “the residue of the people, those that remained.”

17. And the pillars, &c.] See Ch. xxvii. 19. &c.

19.—whatsoever was of gold, the gold, and whatsoever was of silver, the silver---] That is, the utensils abovementioned, some of which were of gold, and some of silver, he took them away of both kinds.

20.—and the twelve brasen oxen that were underneath] It is manifest that תַּחַת ought not to be considered as a preposition governing דִּמְכָנוֹת, “the bases,” for the twelve oxen were under the sea, and not under the bases, 1 Kings vii. 25. Accordingly the LXX. render, αἱ μισχοὶ δαδίκαι χαλκοὶ ὑποκατὰ τῆς θαλάσσης. But תַּחַת is here to be taken adverbially, as Gen. xlix. 25. The bases, דִּמְכָנוֹת, were entirely distinct pieces of furniture from the sea and the twelve oxen, being ten in number, made for the reception of ten brass lavers, that were set upon them by Solomon, 1 Kings vii. 38. But king Ahaz in aftertime removed the lavers from off the bases, and most probably converted the lavers to some other use, which the word יָסַר seems to imply, 2 Kings xvi. 17. for we find no mention here made of the lavers, but of the bases only.

Ibid.—the brass from all these vessels---] Instead of לְנִחְשָׁתָם כָּל I read לְנִחְשָׁתָם מִכָּל, “the brass that came from all these vessels,” after that the Chaldeans had broken them to pieces, as we are told they did, ver. 17.

21. For the pillars, eighteen cubits in height was the one pillar] The dimensions of the pillars seem to be given in order to justify the assertion, that the weight of the brass was too great to be ascertained--- For קוֹמָה the Masoretes with sixteen, perhaps seventeen, MSS. and two Editions, read קוֹמָה, as 1 Kings vii. 15. 2 Kings xxv. 17. But there seems to be no necessity for an alteration of the present reading, the construction being equally unexceptionable, whether we choose to say, “Eighteen cubits was the height of one pillar,” or, “The one pillar was eighteen cubits in height.” But from hence we are led to consider the difference in height expressed, 2 Chron. iii. 15. where we read that

Solomon "made before the house two pillars of thirty and five cubits in length;" which must mean the length of both taken together; that is, each pillar was seventeen cubits and a half high. To reconcile which with what is said here, and the other parallel places, some have supposed that each pillar had a base or pedestal of half a cubit, on which it stood, and which is not brought to account in the place now cited from the Chronicles. Others, that there were two sorts of cubits of different length; which however I cannot admit, because we nowhere read of such diversity in the Hebrew measures; and if there had been such, it would have been always necessary to have specified the distinction, in order to keep clear of error. But most probably neither of the above solutions is necessary, but the truth may be, that the length of the two pillars taken together may have been set down at thirty five cubits, as the nearest approach in whole numbers, although in reality somewhat more; in which case each of the two pillars would for a like reason be reckoned at eighteen cubits, there being no sort of occasion for greater accuracy.

23. And the pomegranates were ninety and six toward every wind, &c.] In 1 Kings vii. 42. and 2 Chro. iv. 13. it is said, there were four hundred pomegranates for the two net-works or wreaths, two rows of pomegranates for each net-work or wreath. The mode of expression here is different, but amounts to exactly the same. For divide the two pillars into four quarters according to the four winds; and let ninety six pomegranates stand opposite to each of the four winds upon the two pillars; the whole number in front of the four winds taken together will be three hundred and eighty four. But they were in four rows, two on each pillar; and in each row must have been four angular pomegranates, that could not be said to be opposite to any one of the four winds, consequently sixteen angular ones in the four rows; which sixteen being added to three hundred and eighty four, make up the number of pomegranates in all four hundred; that is, an hundred in a row upon the wreathen work round about.

24.---Zephaniah the second priest---] See Note on Ch. xxix. 26.

Ibid.---and the three keepers of the door---] These were not the ordinary porters, who were taken from among the Levites, but were priests, who stood at the door to receive the offerings of the people, and thus were keepers of the sacred treasury; an office of high trust and consideration. See 2 Kings xii. 9. xxiii. 4.

25.---and seven men of those that were near the king's person] Literally, "who saw the king's face." Five only are mentioned 2 Kings xxv. 19. but the Arab. reads there *seven* as well as here; and Josephus says they were *seven*, Ant. Lib. x. Cap. 8. Edit. Hudson.

Ibid.---and the principal scribe of the host] In the margin of our Bibles the translation is, "the scribe of the captain of the host." It appears however that there were certain officers belonging to the Jewish armies called שרי־צב, or *scribes*, who were what we might call muster-masters of the troops, see 1 Maccab. v. 42. And the person here spoken of was probably the mustermaster or Intendant general of the army; the secretary at war.

28, 29, 30.] These verses are not inserted in 2 Kings xxv. Nor are they to be found here according to the Roman and Alexandr. Editions of the LXX.; but in the Complutensian they are, and in two MSS. collated by Dr Grabe, in the one marked with asterisks; in the other without; and also in Theodotion's version in the Hexapla. All the other ancient versions acknowledge them; and they are not omitted in any of the collated Hebrew MSS.; so that there is no doubt of their being genuine. But are we to conclude from them that the whole number of the Jews, whom Nebuchadnezzar in all his expeditions carried into captivity, was no more than four thousand six hundred? This cannot be true, for he carried away more than twice that number at one time; and this is expressly said to have been in the eighth year of his reign, 2 Kings xxiv. 12,--16. Before that time he had carried off a number of captives from Jerusalem in the first year of his reign, among whom were Daniel and his companions, Dan. i. 3,--6. And of these Berosus the Chaldean historian speaks, as cited by Josephus, Ant. Lib. x. Cap. 11. Edit. Hudson. These are confessedly not taken notice of here. And as the taking and burning of Jerusalem is in this very chapter said to have been in the fourth and fifth months of the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar, those who were carried into captivity at the date of those events cannot possibly be the same with those that are said to be carried away either in the eighteenth or the twenty third year of that prince. Nor indeed is it credible, that the number carried away at the time the city was taken, and the whole country reduced, could be so few as eight hundred and thirty two, supposing a mistake in the date of the year, which some are willing to do, though without sufficient grounds. Here then we have three deportations, and those the most considerable ones, in the first, the eighth, and the nineteenth years of Nebuchadnezzar, sufficiently distinguished from those in his seventh, eighteenth, and twenty-third years. So that it seems most reasonable to conclude with Archbishop Usher in his *Chronologia Sacra*, that by the latter three the historian meant to point out deportations of a lesser kind, not elsewhere noticed in direct terms in Scripture. The first of these, said to have been in the seventh year of Nebuchadnezzar, was of those that had been picked up in several parts of Judah by the bands of Chaldees, Syrians, and others, whom the king of Babylon sent against the land previous to his own coming, 2 Kings xxiv. 2. That in the eighteenth year corresponds with the time when the Chaldean army broke off the siege before Jerusalem, and marched to fight the Egyptian army; at which time they might think it proper to send off the prisoners that were in camp under a guard to Babylon. And the last in the twenty third year of Nebuchadnezzar was, when that monarch, being engaged in the siege of Tyre, sent off Nebuzaradan against the Moabites, Ammonites, and other neighbouring nations, who at the same time carried away the last gleanings of Jews that remained in their own land, amounting in all to no more than seven hundred and forty five. Josephus speaks of this expedition against the Moabites and Ammonites, which he places in the twenty third year of Nebuchadnezzar, but mentions nothing done in the land of Israel at that time; only he says,

that after the conquest of those nations Nebuchadnezzar carried his victorious arms against Egypt, which he in some measure reduced, and carried the Jews, whom he found there, captives to Babylon, Ant. Lib. x. Cap. 9. Ed. Huds. But the Egyptian expedition was not till the twenty seventh year of Jehoiachin's captivity, that is, the thirty fifth of Nebuchadnezzar, as may be collected from Ezek. xxix. 17. so that those who were carried away in the twenty third year were not from Egypt, but were, as before observed, the few Jews that remained in the land of Judah.

29.---he carried away captive from Jerusalem] In the text of seven MSS. in the margin of another, and in one upon a rasure, also in seven Editions, some of them the most ancient, and in the margin or notes of three other Editions, the word **הגלית** is expressed before **מירושלם**, as also in the Syriac version.

31.---the twenty fifth---] In the parallel place 2 Kings xxv. 27. we read "the twenty seventh." A mistake, no doubt, on which side soever it lies, as the passages are evidently transcribed the one from the other. The LXX. here render, **τρεκαδι καὶ ἑκαδι**, except the Complutensian Edition, which substitutes **πεντην** for **τρεκαδι**.

Ibid. in the first year of his reign---] **בשנת מלכותו**—Literally, "in the year of his reign, or kingdom;" that is, the year coincident with the beginning of it, from whence the date is taken. So that the word *first* is virtually implied in the phrase. In like manner **במלכו** ver. 1. signified, "when he reigned" or "began to reign.—" For **הכליא** the Masora, twelve MSS. and two Editions read **הכליוא**; eleven MSS. and three Editions, **הכליא**.

32.—set his seat above the seat of the kings—] This may easily be understood to signify, that the king of Babylon shewed him more respect and honour than he did to any of the other captive princes, by placing him nearest himself. See Esth. iii. 1. It is probable the phrase may have proceeded from the custom of placing cushions for persons of more than ordinary distinction in the place allotted them to sit in. See Harmer's Observ. Ch. vi. Obs. 26. The Masora with seventeen, perhaps twenty two, MSS. and five Editions, reads **המלכים** instead of **מלכים**.

33. So that he changed his prison garments—] This has been considered by some as an act of generosity in Evilmerodach, giving the captive king new garments, more suitable to his royal dignity than those he wore in prison. But it was rather the act of Jehoiachin himself, who out of respect to the king of Babylon's presence, and to mark his just sense of the favour shewn him, no longer neglected his person and dress, as when a prisoner, and in affliction, but put on new apparel more adapted to the change in his circumstances. So Joseph, when he was sent for out of prison to appear before Pharaoh, first shaved himself, and changed his raiment, Gen. xli. 14. David did the same after he had ceased mourning for his child, before he went into the house of God; 2 Sam. xii. 20. And Mr Harmer observes, both that to change the garments often is in the East a mark of respect in visiting; and also

that the putting on of new clothes is thought by those people to be very requisite, and indeed almost necessary for the due solemnization of a time of rejoicing. See Harmer's Observ. Ch. vi. Obs. 44. and 45.

Ibid.—his life.] For **וַיֵּשֶׁב** thirty-six MSS. and five Editions, read with the Masora, **וַיֵּשֶׁב**, as at the end of the next verse.

34. And his allowance, &c.] This may have been an allowance for the maintenance of his family, if by "eating bread continually before him," as Jehoiachin is in the preceding verse said to have done, be meant sitting at the king of Babylon's own table. Compare 2 Sam. ix. 7, 10, 11.

NOTES
ON THE
LAMENTATIONS
OF
JEREMIAH.

THE Lamentations of Jeremiah are very properly distributed into five Chapters, each of them containing a distinct Elegy, consisting of twenty two periods, according to the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet; although it is in the four first Chapters only that the several periods begin, acrostic-wise, with the different letters following each other in alphabetical order. By this contrivance the metre is more precisely marked and ascertained, particularly in the third Chapter, where each period contains three verses, which have all the same initial letter. The two first Chapters in like manner consist of Triplets, excepting only the seventh period of the first, and the nineteenth of the second, which have each a supernumerary line. The fourth Chapter resembles the three former in metre, but the periods are only Couplets. In the fifth Chapter the periods are Couplets, but of a considerably shorter measure.

It has been surmised by some men of eminence in literature, both among the ancients and moderns,* that these were the funeral lamentations composed by Jeremiah on the death of the good king Josiah, which are mentioned 2 Chron. xxxv. 25. and there said to have been perpetuated by an ordinance in Israel. But whatever is become of those lamentations, these cannot possibly be the same; for their whole tenor from beginning to end plainly shews them not to have been composed till after the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple, and the depopulation of the country by the transmigration of all its inhabitants; which events are described not at all in the style of prophetic prediction, but alluded to and bewailed as what had been already fully accomplished and brought to pass. And that this was the most ancient opinion held concerning them, appears from the introductory title prefixed to the Greek version of the LXX. and from thence probably transmitted to the Latin Vulgate; but which, not being found in any of the Hebrew Copies, I have inserted at the head of the first Chapter between crotchets, as being somewhat doubtful of its original authority. The in-

* Josephus, Jerome, Archbishop Usher, &c

ternal evidence is however sufficient to ascertain both the date and the occasion of these compositions; nor can we admire too much the full and graceful flow of that pathetic eloquence, in which the author pours forth the effusions of a patriotic heart, and piously weeps over the ruins of his venerable country. "Never," says an unquestionable judge of these matters,* "was there a more rich and elegant variety of beautiful images and adjuncts arranged together within so small a compass, nor more happily chosen and applied." But it was before observed, that the prophet's peculiar talent lay in working up and expressing the passions of grief and pity; and unhappily for him, as a man and a citizen, he met with a subject but too well calculated to give his genius its full display.

CHAP. I.

JEREMIAH begins this his first Elegy with mourning over the sad reverse of fortune which his country had experienced; at the same time sorrowfully confessing that all her miseries were of her own seeking, the result of national wickedness and rebellion against God. In the midst of the discourse he on a sudden withdraws himself from view, and leaves Jerusalem to continue the complaint; who humbly solicits from the divine compassion that comfort and redress, which she found it in vain to look for from any other quarter.

1. She that was sovereign over provinces] See what is said of David's conquests and sovereignty over the neighbouring states, 2 Sam. viii. 1—14. x. 6—19. of the extent of his son Solomon's dominions, 1 King iv. 21, 24. of the power of Judah in the reign of Jehoshaphat, 2 Chron. xvii. 10, 11. and also in that of Uzziah, 2 Chron. xxvi. 6, 7, 8.

2. She weepeth sore—] Or, as it is expressed in our old English version, "she weepeth continually." In the Hebrew, according to the idiom of that language, it is, "Weeping she weepeth;" בְּכֹר תִּבְכּוּ. Forty eight, perhaps fifty three, MSS. and seven Editions for בְּכֹר read בְּכֹר. But no alteration seems necessary, for בְּכֹר is an usual form of the infinitive of verbs quiescent in כֹּר. See Isa. xxx. 19.

[Ibid.—her lovers] Those that courted her alliance in the time of her prosperity. Several of the neighbouring princes sent their ambassadors to Zedekiah, Jer. xxvii. 3, &c. to engage him, as appears from the context, to join them in a confederacy against the power of the king of Babylon. But they not only universally failed and deserted Judah in the time of need, but most of them turned against her, and took a malignant pleasure in aggravating her misfortunes. See Jer. xlviii. 27. Ps. cxxxvii. 7. Ezek. xxv. 3, 6, 8. 12, 15. xxvi. 2. xxviii. 24. xxix. 6, 7. Obad. 10—14.

3. Judah is gone into exile because of affliction and because of great servitude] Our Translators, who have rendered, "Judah is gone into captivity, &c." seem to have adopted the notion of the Chaldee Para-

* Lowth de Sacra Poesi Hebræorum, Prælect. xlii.

phrast, who represents the Jews to have been carried into captivity in retaliation of their having oppressed the widow and the fatherless among them, and prolonged illegally the bondage of their brethren who had been sold them for slaves. But *לָלֶךְ* does not necessarily signify, *to go into captivity*, but often to *remove*, or *go into exile*, whether voluntarily, or by compulsion. And I am inclined to think that it was a voluntary migration of the Jews that is here intended, many of whom, previous to the captivity, had left their country, and retired into Egypt, and other parts, to avoid the oppressions and servitude which they had reason to apprehend from the Chaldeans, who had invaded, or were about to invade, their country. Thus the preposition *מִן* may either be construed *from*, or *out of the way of* oppression and multiplied slavery; or *because of*, *for fear of* those evils; or like *præ* in Latin, *in preference to*, that is, they voluntarily exiled themselves rather than stay to be oppressed and compelled to serve. Either of these senses is competent; and the interpretation according to them will be found to suit perfectly with the subsequent members of the period.

Ibid. All her pursuers have overtaken her in the straits] By “the straits” are meant such narrow passages, where there is no room to turn, either to the right hand, or to the left; and the sense I conceive to be wholly metaphorical. Judah, it is said, had quitted her own country, in order to avoid the oppressions and servitude she had reason to expect at home. But in her foreign residence she found herself equally exposed to trouble and uneasiness. So that like a person who was overtaken by an enemy in such a place as is before described, it was not possible for her to escape, but she was obliged to stand the brunt of all the evils she had in vain endeavoured to fly from.

5.—the head] That is, her superiors. See Deut. xxviii. 13, 44.

6.—from the daughter—] For *מִן בַּת* the Masora reads *מִבַּת*, and so do ten MSS. and the Book called by the Jews *RABBOTH*. See Kennicott. Diss. Gen. §. 42.

Ibid.—that find no pasture] All the ancient versions seem to have read *מִצֵּא*; but the Ellipsis of the relative *אֲשֶׁר* is of frequent use, and will justify *מִצֵּא*.

7.—in the days of her affliction and of her abasement] Houbigant supposes that we ought to read *בְּיָמֵי* for *יָמֵי*; but I am inclined to think that it is not the *ב*, but the *מ*, which has been sunk before *יָמֵי*, by means of the preceding word having been terminated with the same letter. A mistake of which we find numberless instances originating from the same cause. *מִיָּמֵי* signifies *during the days*, or *since they began*, as *קִדְמֵי* does presently after, *in*, or *during former days*. *מִדְּרֹר* comes from *יָרַד*, to *descend* from a higher to a lower condition, see ch. iii. 19. Nor can any thing be more natural, than for persons who have fallen into adversity to recollect the advantages they had formerly possessed, and to feel an aggravation of their sufferings in proportion to the greatness of the contrast.

Ibid.—which were] One ancient MS. and the Chald. represent *לֵךְ* after *הָיָה*. But it is not necessary, and seems to overload the metre.

Ibid. The adversaries saw---] Instead of ראוה צרים I propose to read ראוה חצרים. Some persons have been willing to discard this line, as well as the fourth in Ch. ii. 19, but for no better reason, than because all the other periods in the two Chapters consist of three lines only. But I think this not a sufficient ground, in opposition to the authority of all the Hebrew copies and ancient versions.

Ibid.---her discontinuance] משובתה---Houbigant justly observes that משוב is no where used for *sabbath*, and that there is no apparent reason why the Chaldeans should particularly deride the Jewish sabbaths, nor any thing said before that leads to such meaning. But without taking the liberty which he does of substituting another word, משובתה, the use of the verb שבת will justify giving to משובתה a sense well suited to the exigence of the passage, namely, "her discontinuance," that is, the ceasing, or causing to cease, of her, or of her former prosperity. Sixty five MSS. and four Editions, together with the Vulgate, read in the plural, משובתיה.

8.---hath she been as one set apart for unclean] For לנידר, which occurs no where else, nineteen MSS. and the first Edition of the *Hagiographa* read לנידר, as at ver. 17. and in various other places.

9.---her uncleanness was in her skirts---] The plain meaning of this taken out of Metaphor seems to be, that although evident marks of her pollution appeared about her, and the land was defiled by her sinfulness even to its utmost borders, she had no thought or consideration of what must be the consequence of all this at the last.

10.---Concerning whom thou didst command.---] See Deut. xxiii. 3. In צויתיה the ו is paragogic. Eight MSS. omit it.

11.---their things of value---] For מהמוריהם fifty five MSS. and six Editions read מהמדיהם, without the ו, as at ver. 7, 10.

12. O that among you---] לו is undeniably used for לו, the particle of wishing, Isai. xlviii. 18. and if it be a mistake of the transcriber there, the like may fairly be admitted as highly probable here, considering that the next word begins with מ. The LXX. render, Οι προς υμας. Οι, the article, would be scarcely intelligible in this place; but οι, the interjection, of wailing indeed, though not of wishing, gives room for the same construction in other respects, as is expressed in the version.

13.---and hath caused it to penetrate into my bones] This is obviously the right construction, and it is that which is approved by the LXX.

14. My transgressions have been closely watched, &c.] שקר properly signifies, to lie on the watch, so as to lay hold on every opportunity that offers; and is followed by the preposition על. See Prov. viii. 34. Jer. xxxi. 28. Dan. ix. 14. נשקר is the third pers. preter. in *Niphal*, and used impersonally. So it is expressed in the LXX. ἐγγεγραμμένα εἰσι τα αὐτοματά μου—"Watch hath been set upon my transgressions;" and to what end, is declared in the words that follow, "that they might entangle themselves into his hand;" that is, that they might not escape without being taken notice of and punished by him. The image is

borrowed from a fowler, who watches the motions of a bird, in order to entangle him into his net.

Ibid.---His yoke---] עליו is the noun עול or על with the affix ; “his yoke,” imposed by way of punishment.

Ibid.---JEHOVAH---] For יהוה thirty seven MSS. and three Editions read יהוה. And in the verse that follows, twenty one MSS. and one Edition in the first instance, and in the second, thirty one MSS. and three Editions, for יהוה also read יהוה ; the ancient versions all of them using the same word, by which they respectively translate יהוה at other times.

Ibid.---hath cast me upon my hands] This is a literal translation of נחנני בידי, and suits well with the context. The heavy burden that hang upon his neck, he says, made him stumble, and being thrown upon his hands, he was unable to rise because of the weight that pressed upon him. But I question if the words of the text will justify the sense in which they are rendered by the Syr. Chald. Vulg. and by our English Translators.

15.---hath trodden the wine-vat in the virgin daughter of Judah] This metaphor is easily to be understood of causing such an effusion of blood in Jerusalem, as to resemble the treading of the juice out of the ripe grapes in vintage time. See Isai. lxi. 2, 3. Rev. xiv. 20. xix. 15.

16.---mine eye---] In the Hebrew text עיני is repeated ; but in none of the ancient versions is it expressed more than once ; and four MSS. omit it in the second instance. It seems also to incumber the metre. Perhaps מני may originally have followed בוכי, and been thus the ground of the transcriber's mistake.

17.---her hands---] Five MSS. read בידה, and the Roman Edition of the LXX. represents *χειρας αυτης* in the singular ; but the Alexand. and Complut. Editions read *χειρας*.

Ibid. JEHOVAH hath commanded concerning Jacob, &c.] That is, by God's command it came to pass, that the surrounding nations were the adversaries of Jacob. This form of expression we meet with, Psal. lxxviii. 11. “The Lord gave the word, great was the company of those that published.”

19. While they sought food for themselves to support their life] The LXX. and Syr. add, “and found none.” But no such words appear in the Hebrew copies, although the thing is implied ; for had they found what they sought, they would not have died.

20.---as it were death---] Meaning the pestilence ; See Notes on Jer. xv. 2. xviii. 21. Death as it were acting *in propria persona* ; and not by the instrumentality of another, as when a person is slain by the sword. So our great Poet in his description of a lazar-house,

Despair

Tended the sick busiest from couch to couch ;
And over them triumphant Death his dart
Shook

Paradise-Lost, B. xi. 489, &c.

21. They heard how I sighed, there was none that comforted me] שומעו has no subject expressed, but it is implied in the turn of the phrase, which seems to denote, that none of those who heard of his sighing came to bring him any comfort.

Ibid.---they rejoiced that thou hadst wrought [it] See Jer. xlviii. 27. Ezek. xxv. 3, 6, &c. xxxv. 15. Obad. 12.---Two MSS. for עשית read עשיתו, supplying the affix; but the Ellipsis is quite conformable to the Hebrew idiom.

Ibid. Thou hast brought the day, thou hast pronounced, &c.] We have here again the like turn of phrase as in the first line of this period; for the meaning evidently is, that the enemies of Jerusalem would in the end find little cause for their triumph, since the same Almighty being, who had caused her evil day to come, had declared that after a while they should also suffer the like fate. "Thou that hast brought the day [of adversity upon me] hast pronounced that they shall become even as I."

CHAP. II.

THE prophet gives a melancholy detail of the dire effects of the divine anger in the subversion of both the civil and religious constitution of the Jews, and in that extreme wretchedness and distress, to which individuals of every denomination were thereby reduced. He represents the misery of his country as without a parallel, and charges her prophets with having betrayed her into ruin by their false and flattering suggestions. He describes the astonishment of passengers on viewing the desolated condition of Jerusalem. They call out to her to implore God's compassion for the removal of those heavy judgments, which in the height of his displeasure he had brought upon her.

1. JEHOVAH—] Twenty four MSS. and two Editions read יהוה here for יהוה.

Ibid. his footstool—] The ark of the covenant is called God's footstool, 1 Chron. xxviii. 2. Ps. xcix. 5. cxxxii. 7. And for this obvious reason, that when the glory of God appeared sitting as it were enthroned upon the mercy seat between the Cherubim, the ark below was as it were a base or footstool to the throne. See Exod. xxv. 21, 22. and Bishop Lowth's Note on Isa. lx. 13.

2. JEHOVAH] Sixteen MSS. and one Edition here also read יהוה.

Ibid.—without pity] ללא רחמים—The Masoretes with thirty three, perhaps thirty six, MSS. and six Editions read ללא. But the *Asyndeton*, we may observe, is much used in this species of verse at the half-pause, as Bishop Lowth styles it in his Preliminary Dissertation on Isaiah, p. xxxi. And the same in ללא רחמים occurs again, ver. 21. where the Masoretes have made no correction, although the conjunction is expressed there also in several MSS. and Editions.

Ibid.—the pleasant places—] נאות, if derived from נאה, will signify either places or things that are the objects of desire.

3. He hath turned back his right hand—] It is rather doubtful whose right hand is here intended ; whether God's own right hand, his aid and assistance withheld from Israel ; or the right hand of Israel himself, his exertions of strength rendered ineffectual by God, or turned away from obstructing or opposing the progress of the enemy. Both senses might be supported with authorities ; and both would almost equally suit the context. But the latter I think rather preferable ; just as God says, Jer. xxi. 4. that he would turn aside the weapons of war, which were in the hands of the Jews, so as to prevent their hindering the Chaldean army from entering the city.

4. And hath slain every youth all that were desirable to the eye] The words כל-נער, "every youth," are not found at present in the Hebrew text, but are necessary to the metre at least, and are supplied from the Chaldee Paraphrase, where they have been preserved. See Bishop Lowth's Prelim. Dissert. on Isaiah, p. xxxi. in the Note.

5. JEHOVAH—] Eighteen MSS. and one Edition here read יְהוָה.

6.—as it were the garden of his own hedging] Though שָׁמוֹ has been generally supposed to be meant for סֶמֶךְ, and is so written in twenty two MSS. and סֶמֶךְ in five others, and is also in all the ancient versions, as well as in our English Bibles, rendered, "his tabernacle," or tent ; it seems rather to be a verb of the infinitive mood with the pronoun affix, used as a noun. שָׁךְ signifies to *hedge* or *fence* by way of security, Job i. 10. And the garden of God's own hedging answers to his vineyard which he had fenced and hedged about, Isa. v. 2, 5. The LXX. instead of כִּנָּן, "as the garden," seem to have read כִּנְיָן, ας αμπελου, "as the vine." Compare Ps. lxxx. 8, &c.

Ibid.—his congregation] For מִצִּיּוֹן sixty MSS. and one Edition read מִצִּיּוֹן at large. I rather take the congregation of JEHOVAH to be intended, than the place of their assembly, in which latter sense מִצִּיּוֹן is seldom, if ever, used. But the congregation of JEHOVAH was the people of Israel, the same garden, or vineyard, which he had heretofore kept under his special protection.

Ibid.—hath forgotten—] Our Translators render, "hath caused to be forgotten," as if they had read נִשְׁכִּיחַ. But שָׁכַח in *Kal* signifies simply, "hath forgotten ;" that is, he holds those services no longer in esteem, but slights and disregards them. Compare Isa. i. 14, 15.

7. JEHOVAH—] Here again twenty eight MSS. and two Editions read יְהוָה instead of אֲדֹנִי ; and one MS. reads both, יְהוָה אֲדֹנִי.

Ibid.—is accursed—] So נָאֵר signifies in *Hiph'al* from אָרַךְ to *curse*. But the LXX. here render ατιμαζω, which renders it not improbable, that the true reading may have been נָעַר ; and we have often observed the נ and ע to be interchangeably used by mistake. See נָעַר used Neh. v. 13. in a sense, which would not ill suit this place and Ps. lxxxix. 40. the only places where נָאֵר occurs as a verb. It also deserves notice, that נָעַר is used in *Pihel* both Neh. v. 13. and also Exod. xiv. 27. Ps. cxxxvi. 15. and that in the latter of these texts nineteen MSS. and one Edition read נָעַר, the נ standing in the place of the ו vowel. And in like manner נִיָּאֵר is found in one MS. here, and in

seven MSS. **נִי־אֶרֶץ**, Ps. lxxxix. 40. So that if this emendation of the text be admitted, we may render, "he hath shaken off his sanctuary."

Ibid.—the walls—] For **חֻמּוֹת** sixteen, perhaps seventeen, MSS. and three Editions, read **חֻמּוֹת**, and nine MSS. read **חֻמּוֹת**. The LXX. render in the singular number, **ταξος**.

Ibid. They have lifted up the voice—] That is, the enemies triumphed in the desolation of the temple with as loud a noise, as the people were wont to make there in celebrating the praises of God on a solemn festival. Compare Ps. lxxiv. 4.

8. He hath stretched out a line—] Called emphatically, **קוֹ חָרוֹ**, "the line of devastation;" Isa. xxxiv. 11. being designed to mark out the extent of what was to be pulled down.

9.—are sunk—] Seventy six MSS. and eight Editions read **טָבְעוּ**; which the Masoretic Editors have written with a **ט** of a smaller size than the rest of the letters. The **ט**, it should seem, had by some accident been lost in the Copies they revised; and though both the sense and the alphabetical order of the initials required it, they were scrupulous of restoring it without some mark of their doubting concerning its authenticity.

10.—they keep silence] The Syr. version favours **וַיִּדְמוּ**; the other ancient interpreters seem to have read **דָּמוּ**. I construe both **יִשְׁבוּ** and **יִדְמוּ** in the present tense, as denoting the same posture and silence continued.

11. My liver is poured out upon the ground] That the mental passions have a considerable influence upon the habit of the body in various instances, is a fact not to be questioned. And experience daily shews, that a violent uneasiness of mind tends greatly to promote a redundancy and overflowing of vitiated bile. The liver is the proper seat of the bile, where its secretions are carried on. Hence the prophet's meaning in this place seems to be, that he felt as if his whole liver was dissolved, and carried off in bile, on account of the copious discharge brought on by continual vexation and fretting. Job expresses the same thing, when he says, Ch. xvi. 13. "He poureth out my gall upon the ground."

13. What shall I urge to thee? Sixty eight, perhaps seventy, MSS. and eight Editions, read with the Masora **אֶעֱדֹךָ** for **אֶעֱדֹךָ**. It signifies making a solemn asseveration of what one knows to be true.

Ibid.—thy breach is wide like the sea] For **כִּי־יָם**, "like the sea," the LXX. appear to have read **כִּי־סֵךְ**, **συνεχης**, "the cup." And as a cup is used to denote any allotment of divine providence, whether good or bad, so **כִּי־סֵךְ**, "the cup of thy destruction," would mean, *the destruction allotted thee*. But **כִּי־יָם** is the more probable reading, being justified by all the Hebrew copies, and by the rest of the ancient versions; and **סֵךְ**, signifying "the breach," or wound, which Jerusalem had received, is by an *Hyperbole* said to be "great," deep, or wide, "like the sea," which is as it were a breach made in the earth.

14. For they have not laid open to thee—] For **לֹא־נִפְתָּח** the Syr. seems

to have preserved the true reading $\gamma\lambda$. And the last word in the next line, מרוח , I conceive not to be a noun, as it is generally represented by interpreters, but the participle preter in *Pyhal* from רוח , to thrust or cast out. In the preceding verse the prophet condoled with his country on the breach made in her, asking, "Who shall heal thee?" In this verse he answers the question negatively, "Not thy prophets, who have taught thee nothing solid or to the purpose." חפל is rendered, "untempered mortar," Ezek. xiii. 10, 11. and both there and here denotes a teaching deficient in that due seasoning of truth and plain dealing, which alone could render it adequate to any useful or salutary purpose. For continues the prophet. they have not laid open to thy view thy sinfulness, the true cause of the evil brought upon thee, as they ought to have done in order to point out the proper cure by repentance and amendment; but they have amused thee with burdens of delusion, false and fallacious prophecies, and that even after as well as before their exile. See Jer. xxix. 8, &c. משא "a burden," usually signifies a prophecy of a calamitous import: see Note on Jer. xxiii. 33. But in this place שוא immediately following משא seems rather to denote the contents of the burdens to be vanity and delusion.

15.---Perfect in beauty, the delight of the whole earth] See Ps. xlviii. 2. 1. 2. It was at least a pardonable partiality in the Jews, which led them to bestow these encomiums upon their capital, and to suppose that all strangers would be equally delighted with its beauty as they themselves were.

16, 17.] In these verses the alphabetical order of the initials is inverted, ד coming before ז ; and the same occurs in the two following Chapters. Grotius's conjecture on this head is not very satisfactory; namely, that the Chaldeans may possibly have ranged their letters differently from the Hebrews; and that in the first Chapter Jeremiah wrote as an Hebrew, but in the three following as a subject of the Chaldeans, conforming himself to their usage. Now admitting what I think is without proof, that the Chaldean Alphabet was ranged differently from the Hebrew; and that Jeremiah was more of a Chaldean subject, when he wrote the second, third, and fourth Chapters, than when he wrote the first, which also I very much doubt of; yet what a ridiculous obligation is he here supposed to lie under, of disposing the lines of his Hebrew Elegies in a new order, in consequence of his living under a new government?---On the other hand, Houbigant is of opinion, that the order of the verses was originally the same in all the Chapters, but disturbed by the subsequent mistake of the Transcriber, proceeding from a cause, which did not affect the first, but extended alike to the other three Chapters in succession. Accordingly in the Syriac version the customary order of the Alphabet takes place uniformly in all the Chapters. And some few MSS. affect the like transposition, not indeed with the same uniformity throughout all the Chapters, but severally, some in one, and some in another. But the probability of such transposition must depend on the relation, which the verses bear to each other, and to those which precede and follow, in point of sense and connexion.

And although in this present Chapter the change might take place, perhaps without any apparent inconvenience, I question whether this would be altogether the case in the two following. It seems therefore most advisable not to introduce any alteration without better grounds, however unable we may be to discover the motives that led to the present arrangement.

16.--We have swallowed her up--] The LXX. and Syr. appear to have read בלענו with the affix, instead of בלענו.

Ibid.--which we looked for--] For שקונו nineteen MSS. and one Edition, the most ancient, read more perfectly שקונו.

17. What he constituted in days of old, he hath destroyed--] To this construction we are determined by the Metre. The sense is good, and perfectly adapted to the place; and corresponds nearly with what is expressed, Jer. xlv. 4.

18. Their heart cried out, Before JEHOVAH, &c.] The same are the speakers here, who are said to have made the foregoing remarks concerning the distressed condition of Jerusalem, namely, the passengers, ver. 15. whose heart, being deeply affected with what they saw, urged them to break forth into the following passionate exclamation addressed to the daughter of Sion--All the ancient versions, and most of the modern, our English ones in particular, have agreed in rendering חומה wall, or walls. But give it this signification, and, as Houbigant justly observes, construct it afterwards in the sentence as you please, it will not be easy to make out any tolerable sense with it. But without changing the word (which is what Houbigant proposes to do) חומה (or חמה, as it is read in four MSS. one a pretty ancient one) may be an adjective, or adverb, from חם, to be warm, and may denote that fervour of spirit, that warmth of feeling, with which the daughter of Sion is exhorted to shower down her tears before God, to move his compassion, and deprecate his severe judgments--For ארני no less than forty three MSS. here read יחור.

Ibid.--let not the daughter of thine eye stand still] By "the daughter of thine eye" I understand *the tear*, and not *the pupil*, or *apple of the eye*; although it is usually interpreted in the latter sense, because אישון, which indeed means *the pupil*, seems to be called "the daughter of the eye," בת-עין, Ps. xvii. 8. But perhaps we ought there to read, as in one MS. בית-עין, "within the eye," or in the socket of it. "Keep me as safe and secure, as the pupil in the socket of the eye."--But *the tear* may with great propriety and elegance be called "the daughter of the eye," from which it issues.

19.--in the night] For בליל, forty one, perhaps forty five, MSS. and three Editions, read with the Masora, בליל.

Ibid.--before the face of JEHOVAH] Thirty nine MSS. and two Editions for מני-אני read מני-חור.

Ibid.--at the head of all the streets] This phrase occurs Ch. iv. 1. Isai. li. 20. Nahum iii. 10. and perhaps signifies, at the extremity of the streets at either end.--Here we have a supernumerary line, as before, Ch. i. 7. See Note there.

20. Shall women devour the fruit of the womb, little ones dandled on the hands ?] All the versions and interpreters in general understand this passage of the fulfilling of the curse denounced Lev. xxvi. 29. Deut. xxviii. 53, 56, 57. by women eating their own children through distress of famine during the siege of Jerusalem. But in that case instead of פֵּרִי we ought to read פֵּרִיָּהוּ, as we do יִלְרִיחוֹן, Ch. iv. 19. Houbigant indeed questions, whether in Scripture language it would be tolerable to use *the fruit of a woman* for *the fruit of her womb*. But פֵּרִיָּהוּ, "their fruit," is used Psal. xxi. 11. for their children, or progeny, without any other addition. The LXX. Chald. and Arab. however in this place furnish a word expressive of *the womb*, and render, "the fruit of their womb;" which induces me to think that most probably the true reading may have been פֵּרִי רֶחֶם instead of פֵּרִי; in which case we should render, "Shall women devour the fruit of the womb?" --- פֶּחַח signifies *the distended, or open palm of the hand*. Hence we have a verb, טַפַּחְתִּי, ver. 22. which the Rabbins interpret of the women stroking and smoothing the limbs of new born children, when they swaddle them; but, I conceive, may as well denote the carrying of them upon the open palms of their hands in nursing; and accordingly עֲלֵי טַפַּחִים, "Children of palms," may signify such as are of an age or size to be so carried about. Thirty six, perhaps thirty seven, MSS. and two Editions, read טַפַּחִים; which however would make no great difference; for טַפַּח might signify the act of carrying the children in such a manner, and so עֲלֵי טַפַּחִים would be, little ones accustomed to such sort of gestation.---But נָשִׁים does not always signify *women* properly so called, but is sometimes used metaphorically for *weak and effeminate persons*; as Isa. iii. 12. xix. 16. (I think also, xxvii. 11.) Jer. l. 37. li. 30. Nahum iii. 13. Jerusalem may therefore here be understood to expostulate, "Shall the weakest and most dastardly of my enemies destroy the fruit of the womb, infants of the tenderest age?" Other ages and conditions are afterwards specified as involved in the general ruin, the priest and the prophet, the boy and the old man, the maidens and young men.

Ibid.---in the sanctuary of JEHOVAH] For אֶרֶץ thirty nine MSS. and four Editions read יְרוּשָׁלַיִם.

21. My virgins and my young men are fallen; with the sword hast thou slain [them;] The metre evidently requires this division of the lines, supposing the text to be right, as it stands at present. It deserves notice however, that the LXX. (who have likewise construed זָרְגָה with בָּזָרָה) seem in the place of נָפְלוּ to have read הִלְכּוּ בַשִּׁבִּי, *προεβήσαν ἐν αἰχμαλωσίᾳ*. One MS. reads הִלְכּוּ בַשִּׁבִּי נָפְלוּ. But if all these words are genuine, I conceive that the two former ought to come immediately after בָּזָרָה, and the latter, נָפְלוּ, after יְרוּשָׁלַיִם, thus distinguishing between the fate of the virgins, who are said to be gone into captivity, and that of the young men of an age to bear arms, who fell by the sword in battle. In this case the lines would run thus,

My virgins are gone into captivity, and my young men are fallen
by the sword;

Thou hast slain in the day of thine anger, thou hast killed without mercy.

Ibid.---thou hast shewed no mercy] Thirty nine MSS. and four Editions with the Syr. Chald. and Vulg. read **וּלֹא-חַמְלִית**, "and hast shewed no mercy." See Note on ver. 2.

22. Thou hast convoked---] For **תִּקְרָא** the LXX. appear to have read **קָרָא**, but the Syr. **קִרְאָת**, which latter must certainly be the true reading, as the sense and context require. It is probable that a transcriber, having repeated the **ת** which is at the end of the preceding word, found his mistake when he came to the end of this word, but chose rather to omit the **ת** there, than deface his MS. with a blot; a niceness to which those professional writers have too often sacrificed the integrity of the text.

Ibid.---such as were strangers to me---] **מִגְוֵרֵי** properly signifies "my sojournings," people among whom I was a stranger and foreigner, when I came into their country, as of course they were the like in respect to me. All these nations round about being assembled against Jerusalem at one time, as if a day had been fixed for the purpose, prevented, as it follows in the next line, the escape of almost a single individual.

Ibid. Those whom I had fostered, &c.] **אֲשֶׁר טִפַּחְתִּי**---See note on ver. 20.---**אֵיבֵי כָל־לֵב**, "were all of them mine enemies." Most of the ancient interpreters, as well as the modern, have rendered **כָּל־לֵב** as the verb with the affix plural, "have," or "hath consumed them." But **כָּל־לֵב**, I think, may better be understood of all those foreign nations, who had risen and flourished in a great measure through the fostering care and protection of the kingdom of Judah, but who had ungratefully returned the kindness by declaring against it in the time of its distress.

CHAP. III.

In this Chapter the prophet seems to have had it in view to instruct his countrymen in the lesson of bearing themselves well under adversity. To this end he first of all sets himself forth as an example of the most severe and trying afflictions. He then points out the inexhaustible mercies of God as the neverfailing source of his consolation and hope; and exhorts others to patience and quiet resignation under the like circumstances, shewing that God is ever gracious to those that wait on him; that he is prone to pardon and pity, and takes no delight in afflicting mankind; but turns away with disgust from all acts of oppression and malignant cruelty. He asserts the divine supremacy in the dispensations of good and evil, and argues that no man has a right to complain, when he is punished according to his deserts. He therefore recommends it to his fellow sufferers to examine themselves and turn to God with contrite hearts, sincerely deploring the sinfulness of their conduct, which had provoked the divine justice to treat them with such extraordinary severity. He professeth himself deeply affected with the calamities of his country. But calling to mind the desperate circumstances from which he had heretofore been rescued by the divine aid, he declareth his hope, that the same good providence will frustrate

the malice of his present enemies, and turn the scornful reproach they had cast upon him to their own confusion.

1.-- that hath seen affliction---] To *see* is often used by the Hebrew writers for to feel, taste, or have experimental knowledge of any thing. See Psal. xlix. 9. lxxxix. 48. xc. 15. Jer. xiv. 13. xvii. 6, 8. Luke ii. 26.

2.---caused to go in darkness---] The LXX. express ב before חשך, as if they had read חשך בלילה, *eis σκοτος*. But the Ellipsis is elsewhere to be met with after ילך. See Prov. x. 9. Darkness is a common emblem of distress, as light is of prosperity.

3. Against me only hath he sitten, &c.] The generality of interpreters deduce ישב from שׁוּב, and no less than sixty three MSS. and three Editions read יָשׁוּב. I conceive notwithstanding that ישב is right, and not שׁוּב, and that it is the preter verb, "he hath sitten;" which denotes a continuance or perseverance in doing any thing; see Psal. l. 20. cxix. 23. In which two cited places we may observe that the verb which follows is without any copulative, in like manner as we find here. The Chald. also renders יָתוּב. The particle אֵן seems to imply, as if the prophet represented God intent upon nothing so much as a continued repetition of the same harsh and afflictive treatment of him.

5. He hath built upon me, and encompassed my head, so that it is weary] The Syr. and Vulg. and the generality of interpreters besides, ancient and modern, are inclined to render שָׂרַר, *gall*, or *hemlock*, a bitter weed sometimes used metaphorically to denote affliction and misery, as ver. 19. But the coupling together of a metaphorical and a proper term is neither usual nor elegant; for which reason though we find שָׂרַר וְעֵנָה, "wormwood and gall," sometimes joined together, that will not justify the use of שָׂרַר וְתִלְאָח, "gall and travail." The LXX. render, κεφαλήν μου, by which it should seem they read שָׂרַר, and one MS. is found to have preserved the י, though transposed, reading שָׂרַי. I cannot help thinking that this reading of the LXX. is the true one, and not only so, but that they have rightly represented וְתִלְאָח as a verb, καὶ ἐμπεχθήσων. The obvious objection to this is, that שָׂרַר generally occurs as a masculine noun, but וְתִלְאָח is a verb in the feminine. But it may be answered, that the other members and parts of the animal body are of the common gender, so as to be found sometimes masculine, and sometimes feminine; and why the same may not be the case with the head, I know not. Few instances occur in the Hebrew, where the gender of שָׂרַר is discernible. But in the present there would be good reason for preferring the feminine gender, supposing the choice free, in order to obviate the ambiguity of the subject.

6. In the midst of darkness hath he caused me to dwell] See Ps. cxliii. 3. As darkness has before been observed to be an emblem of distress, ver. 2. so the plural number seems to denote an intenseness of degree. See in like manner בְּמִדְרֹתַי ver. 15. The meaning here appears to be, that God had involved him in such a depth of distress, that

he was as incapable of extricating himself, as those who had lain long in the dark mansions of the dead were of making their escape thence.

8.—he hath obstructed—] For שָׁתַּם eighteen MSS. and the oldest Edition read שָׁתַּם. “He hath even barred my prayer from approaching him.”

9. He hath blocked up my way with hewn stone, my paths hath he distorted] That is, he hath put an inséparable obstacle in my way, as if he had built a stone wall across, so as to oblige me to turn aside from the direct road; by which means I am puzzled and at a loss how to proceed, like a man whose journey lies through crooked and intricate paths. Compare Job xix. 8.

10.—a lion—] For אֲרִיָּה thirty MSS. and two editions read with the Masora, אֲרִי.

11. He hath turned full upon me] שָׁוַר or שָׁוַר is applied Hos. iv. 16. to a refractory Heifer, that turns aside, and will not go forward in the straight track, as she is directed. Here it is to be understood of a bear or lion turning aside toward a traveller, to fall upon him in his way.

13.—the issue of his quiver—] Literally, “the sons of his quiver,” his arrows. An Hebraism.

14.—their music] נִינְחָם. This is commonly rendered “their song;” but I rather think it means a subject upon which they played, as upon a musical instrument, for their diversion. See ver. 63. Ch. v. 14. Job xxx. 9.

16.—he hath laid me low in ashes] The verb נָפַשׁ occurs no where else in the Hebrew, but all the ancient versions seem to have considered נָפַשְׁנִי as the same with נִנְבִּישְׁנִי, which the LXX. and Vulg. render, “hath fed me,” *ἐσθίεντός μου, cibavit me*; as if from נָפַשׁ came the Latin word *cibus*. But the usual signification of נָפַשׁ is to *reduce* or *bring down* a person to any low condition; and accordingly as sitting or lying in ashes was customary in great affliction, so נִנְבִּישְׁנִי בַּאֲפֵר may be understood, “he hath laid me low, or made me wallow, in ashes” because of great sorrow and grief. In this condition the grit or ashes would naturally get between the teeth, and be offensive to them.

18.—JEHOVAH hath caused my strength and my hope to fail] Literally, “My strength and my hope have failed through, or by means of, JEHOVAH.” נִצָּחִי, “my strength,” seems to imply whatever there is in me, by virtue of which I am in any degree of perfection and excellence. See Taylor's Concord. So that the prophet hereby means to say, that God had at once put an end to all his present good and future expectations.

19.—mine abasement] נִמְנוּמִי—See note on Ch. i. 7.

20.—My soul cannot but remember] Literally, “remembering it remembereth.”

21. This I revolve in my heart—] Here the prophet begins to suggest the motives of patience and consolation.

22.--they are not exhausted---] For תָּמְנוּ one MS. reads תָּמוּ ; and all the ancient versions, except the Vulgate, render in the third person. Grotius supposes the ך may be *epenthetically* inserted.

23. New are his compassions---] For רַחֲמֵי eighty four MSS. and seven Editions read with the Masora, רַחֲמֵי, which is also confirmed by all the ancient versions. But the metre plainly shews רַחֲמֵי to belong to this verse, which without it would be defective ; and the preceding verse would be produced by it to too great a length. It cannot however begin the verse because of the initial letter ; we must therefore suppose a transposition, and that we ought to read רַחֲמֵי חֲרָשִׁים.

25.--unto him that waiteth for him---] Ten MSS. and one Edition read in the plural, לָקוּ, in conformity with the LXX. Chald. and Vulgate. Also four MSS. and one Edition read לָקוּיִן. But with the Syr. I prefer the present reading לָקוּ, in the singular number.

26.--let him wait with silent hope] Literally, "let him wait, or hope, and be silent." For יִדְרֹךְ thirteen MSS. read יִדְרֹךְ, which, I think, is right.

29.] This verse is wanting in the LXX. version.

30.--let him be filled full with reproach] Fifteen MSS. and one Edition read וַיִּשְׁבַּע with the conjunction.

31.—JEHOVAH] The ancient Bodl. MS. No. 1. and one other MS. read יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי. Thirty five MSS. and two Editions read only יְהוָה, which seems most conformable to the ancient versions. The Chald. adds the word עַבְדָּיו, "his servants," after יְהוָה ; but is seconded by no other authority.

32.--his mercies] Sixty eight MSS. and seven Editions read with the Masora, חַסְדָּיו.

34, 35, 36.] In these verses certain acts of tyranny, malice, and injustice are specified, which men often indulge themselves in the practice of one towards another ; but which the divine goodness is far from countenancing or approving by any similar conduct.

34. To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the land] By "the prisoners of the land" I am persuaded are meant the poor insolvent debtors, whom their creditors among the Jews, as well as among other nations, were empowered to cast into prison, and oblige them to work out the debt ; a power too often exerted with great rigour and inhumanity. See Mat. xviii. 30, 34. The sufferings of these persons seem to be alluded to Isa. lviii. 3. where the people asking with surprise, why their voluntary fastings and acts of self-mortification were so little noticed and regarded by God, receive for answer, that while they laid themselves under restraint in one point, they indulged their vicious passions and inclinations of different kinds, and shewed not that forbearance in their treatment of others, which they hoped to experience at the hand of God. This is clearly the general scope of the reply, but the precise meaning of the terms כָּל-עַצְבֵיכֶם רָנְגְשׁוּ has not, I think, been sufficiently explained. Our old English Version renders עַצְבֵיכֶם,

“your dettes;” our Translation in present use, “your labours;” and Bishop Lowth, “your demands of labour.” But none of these, I think, reach the true and proper sense of עֲצָבִים, how near soever they approach to the general meaning of the passage. The LXX. render עֲצָבִים, υποχρεῖς υμῶν, “those who are subject to, or are in your power.” Symmachus and Theodotion, υποχρεῖς υμῶν, according to Jerome, who professes to follow them in rendering, *et debitorum vestras repetitis*. Grotius observes, that in Arabic عَصَب signifies *ligare*; and thence עֲצָבִים *obligati*. Now from all this it may be concluded, that עֲצָבִים are no other than those who are called in the Roman jurisprudence *nexi*, that is, persons delivered up for insolvency to serve their creditors under confinement, till they had made full satisfaction by their labour for the debt, and consequently the same as אֲמִיר אֶרֶץ. In this case רָצַח נָפֶשׁ may most properly be rendered, “ye oppress;” for נָפֶשׁ signifies to *oppress, particularly by compelling to hard labour*; See Taylor’s Concordance. In exact correspondency with which it is required, as a means of rendering their fasts acceptable, that they should “take off the burdens of the yoke, and let the oppressed wretches, רָצוּצִים, go free.” Isa. lviii. 6.

35. To turn aside the judgment of a man before the face of a superior] עֲלִיּוֹן properly signifies *a superior*, one exalted above others. It is often put for God, THE MOST HIGH, who is above all. But here it cannot be so. For though a person may be made to suffer greatly by *having his judgment turned aside*, that is, by being calumniated and misrepresented before an earthly superior, yet all such malicious attempts must fail and come to nothing, where God is the judge; who cannot be so deceived or imposed on. עֲלִיּוֹן must therefore be understood here of an earthly superior.

36. To subvert a man in his cause] That is, to prevent his having justice done him in a law suit or controversy by any undue interference; as by bearing or suborning false witness, or exerting any kind of influence in opposition to truth and right.

Ibid.—JEHOVAH seeth not] For רָאָה seventeen MSS. read רָאָה. As to *see* often in Scripture connotes approbation and complacency; so here by *not seeing* is meant that God disapproves and dislikes such conduct as is before specified, turning his face away as a mark of disgust and abhorrence, and refusing to have any thing to do with it. So it is said, Hab. i. 13. “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil; and canst not look on iniquity.”

37.—JEHOVAH—] Twenty two MSS. and one Edition read רָאָה, instead of רָאָה.

39. Wherefore should a living man complain, a man, &c.] There seems to be a peculiar emphasis laid on the words אִישׁ and אִישׁ in this passage. אִישׁ is said to denote *a man* because of his excellence and superiority over all other earthly beings. Whilst a man therefore *lives*, and is possessed of those privileges of his nature, whatever else he undergoes must be less than his sins have deserved, because death, which implies the loss of all those privileges, is the allotted wages of sin.

Ibid.—his suffering for sin] Forty MSS. and four Editions read with the Masora, **חַטֹּאתָיו**, “his sins.” But **חַטֹּאתָיו** is unexceptionable, as the verb **חָטָא** signifies not only to *sin*, but to *suffer for it*. See Bishop Lowth on Isaiah xl. 2. Taken in this sense, **חַטֹּאתָיו** is the infinitive mood used as a noun with the affix. The LXX. and Chaldee apparently read **חַטֹּאתָיו**.

40. unto JEHOVAH] For **עַד** five MSS. read **אֵל**.

41.—our hearts—] For **לִבֵּנוֹ** thirty one MSS. and two Editions read **לִבֵּנוֹ**, which agrees with all the ancient versions.

42.—thou hast not pardoned] Four MSS. read **וְאָמַרְתָּ** with the conjunction, which is also expressed in the LXX. Syr. Vulg. and Arab.

43. Thou hast fenced about with anger] **סָבִיבָהּ**—The verb **סָבִיב** appears to have this sense Job iii. 23. x. 11. xxxviii. 8. There seems to be a manifest allusion to the manner of hunting wild beasts by surrounding at first a large tract of country with toils, which the beasts could not break through; and these being drawn in by degrees, the beasts were driven into a narrower space, where they were massacred with darts and javelins at the will of the hunters. See Bishop Lowth's Note on Isa. xxiv. 17, 18.

Sic curva feras indago latentes
Claudit, et admotis paulatim cassibus arctat.
Statius Achill. l. 459.

Ibid.—thou hast not spared] Thirty five MSS. and three Editions read **וְאָמַרְתָּ**, with the conjunction. So the Alexandr. copy of the LXX. the Syr. Chald. Arab. and Vulg. See note on Ch. ii. 2.

46; 47, 48.] According to alphabetical order these verses should follow ver. 49, 50, 51. and they are so disposed in the Syriac version, and in two MSS. But the 46th and 47th verses seem to have so natural a connection with those that now immediately precede them, as not to suffer a transposition. See what was before observed in note on Ch. ii. 16, 17.

47. The terror and the pit—] See Jer. xlviii. 43. and note there.

48.] In this and the three following verses the prophet shews the misfortunes of his country to constitute no small part of his personal affliction.

51.—the daughters of my city] Probably the lesser cities and towns dependent on the metropolis are hereby meant. See Jer. xlix. 2.

52. They that are mine enemies without cause] **אֵינִי חַטֹּאתָיו**—Compare Ps. xxxv. 19. lxix. 5. and see Bishop Lowth's Preliminary Observations on Isaiah, p. xl. Here the prophet begins to celebrate the deliverance he had experienced from former dangers and difficulties; from whence he is led to trust, that the same good providence will again be his support, and avenge him of his present persecutors.

53. They cut off my life in the pit, &c.] See Jer. xxxviii. 6, &c.

54. Waters flowed over my head] A metaphor taken from a person

ready to drown, to denote imminent danger and distress. See Ps. lxi. 1, 2. cxxiv. 4, 5.

56. Hide not thine ear from my relief at my cry] That is, Shut not thine ear, refuse not to attend, and grant me relief, when I cry unto thee. From רוּחַ *air*, or *wind*, רוּחַ derives the signification of *refreshment* or *relief*; giving a person air, or fanning him, when he is fainting, being a ready means of refreshing and relieving him. Accordingly the LXX. render רוּחוֹרִי Exod. viii. 15. ἀναψύξις.

58.---O JEHOVAH---] Thirty one MSS. together with one in the margin, and one ancient Edition, read here יְיָ, instead of אֱלֹהֵי.

59. Thou hast seen, &c.] Here the prophet adverts to his present sufferings and ill usage.

60.---all their devices against me] Seven MSS. read in the plural מְחַשְׁבוֹתָם, conformably with the LXX. and Vulg.---Fifteen MSS. read עָלַי instead of לִי; and one has a letter erased before לִי.

61.---all their devices---] Here again eight MSS. with the LXX. and Vulg. read מְחַשְׁבוֹתָם.

62.---their muttering---] דַּבָּר properly signifies to speak in a low imperfect voice, uttering a confused sound.

63. Behold their sitting down, &c.] That is, Behold at all times, whether they sit down or rise up, I am made the object of their merriment. See note on ver. 14.

65. Thou wilt give with a hearty accordance---] The LXX. render מַגִּנָּה *maginā*, and the Vulg. *scutum*, from מָגֵן, *a shield*. In the margin of our Bibles it is translated *obstinacy*; and Taylor in his Concordance explains לֵב מַגִּנָּה לִי, *a heart shielded or hardened against good impressions*. Others, who perhaps read מַגִּינָה, as it stands in twenty two MSS. render it *sorrow*, as from the verb מָגַן. But it seems most natural to derive it from the verb מָגַן, to *deliver* or *make over*; in which case לֵב מַגִּנָּה לִי means *a delivery of the heart*, that is, a willing one, to which the heart consents. It is further to be noted, that none of the ancient Versions express לֵחַם, more than once, and that one MS. omits it after חַתָּן. Perhaps therefore we should read לֵב מַגִּנָּה לִי, "according to, or with, a delivery of the heart," that is, freely and without the least reluctance.

66.---the heavens of JEHOVAH] So stands the text at present, יְיָ שָׁמַיִם. But the LXX. and Vulgate seem to have read יְיָ מִתְּחִתָּא, "from under heaven, O JEHOVAH." And it is not unusual to find the final ם defective in the MSS. probably having been first expressed by a stroke over the ך, which afterwards was lost. See Kennicott's Dissert. Gener. § 26. According to the Syr. it was יְיָ שָׁמַיִךְ, "thy heavens, O JEHOVAH."

CHAP. IV.

THE prophet contrasts in various affecting instances the wretched and deplorable circumstances of the Jewish nation with the flourishing state of their affairs in former times; and ascribes the unhappy change principally to the profligacy of their priests and prophets, which had drawn upon them the universal abhorrence of God and man. The people proceed with lamenting their hopeless condition, and in a particular manner the captivity of their sovereign. The judgment of Edom is at length foretold, together with a final cessation of Sion's calamities.

1.--changed] For שנים twenty five MSS. and one Edition read שנה.

Ibid.--the hallowed stones] Literally, "the stones of holiness," meaning, as is most probable, the men of Israel, who were the stones of which the church of God was built.

2.--of worth equal to--] כחמלאים---The verb סלח or סלח signifies to weigh down, against any thing put in an opposite scale.

3.--in cruelty is like the ostriches in the desert] For כיעני three MSS. read כיעני, and forty three MSS. and ten Editions with the Masora, כיעני. See Taylor's Concordance at the word יען, where an account of the Ostrich is given from Shaw's Travels, Supplem. p. 66. See also Job xxxix. 14, 15, 16.

5.--have embraced dunghills] That is, they lie on them, instead of the scarlet carpets or couches which they were bred to.

6. The punishment--] See note on Jer. li. 6.

Ibid.--nor were hands weakened in her] Sodom was destroyed by a sudden act of God, which the prophet thinks preferable to lingering and wasting away with disease or want, as was the case in Jerusalem during the long siege.

7. Her nobles--] נזיר signifies to *separate* or *distinguish* from the vulgar. I therefore think that we are here by נזיר not to understand those who are properly called *Nazarites*, that is, persons who had set themselves apart by a religious vow, but persons of rank and distinction above the common sort. נזיר is thus applied to Joseph, Gen. xlix. 26. as one *distinguished in eminence and dignity* above his brethren. See DR DURELL'S Note in *Parallel Prophecies of Jacob and Moses*, p. 100.

Ibid. They were ruddier on the bone] In the preceding line the whiteness of their skin is described; in this their flesh, which was red underneath towards the bone, marking their high health.

Ibid.--their veining was the sapphire] נזיר signifies to *divide* or *intersect*, as the blue veins do on the surface of the body. These therefore are without doubt intended.

8.--duskier than the dawn] ערר signifies the dawn of day, when it is neither light nor dark, but between both, at which time objects are not easily distinguished.

Ibid.---Their skin is strait bound upon their bones] **سَد** in Arabic signifies *to bind*; and to be *hide bound* is a common expression, and is what is here meant in opposition to the former juicy ruddiness of the flesh upon the bones, ver. 7.

9.---In that those, being thrust through, pass away before the fruits of the field.] That is, they pass away at one stroke before the means of subsistence fail, and so experience not the misery of wanting them; which is far preferable to the case of those, who outlive the necessities of life, and pine away by slow degrees.

12.---nor all the inhabitants---] Ten MSS. and two Editions with the Masora read **כל** without the **י**. The LXX. also omit the conjunction. But it is expressed in the Syr. Chald. and Vulgate, and, **י** think, rightly.

14.---frantic---] Our English Translators have with the Vulgate rendered **עורר**, *blind*. But the LXX. and Syr. interpret it otherwise. They seem indeed to have read it with the feminine affix **עוררה**. But I conceive **עורר** to be the participle *Pahul* of the verb **עור**, to *rouse* or *excite*.

Ibid.---Such as they could not overpower---] **בל** stands here by Ellipsis for **לא יכלו**. See the like, Jer. ii. 8, 11. The meaning is, that if they could no otherwise harm those they met with in the streets, they defiled them by touching their garments.

15. Because they were contentious, even when they were fugitives---] **נעו**, "whilst they wandered;" See **נ** thus used, Psal. xcv. 9. **נ**, "they tempted me whilst they saw my work." --As their mischievous behaviour rendered them obnoxious at home, so carrying with them abroad the same litigious and turbulent spirit, they made the nations unwilling to admit of their sojourning among them. Or the rendering might be, "When they wrangled, and were also fugitives," that is, when in consequence of their intestine broils they (namely, the weaker faction) became exiles, the neighbouring nations would have nothing to do with persons, who, they said, as it follows in the next verse, were discarded of their God, and had shewn no sort of respect, where on account of character and age it was due.

16.---their portion---] See note on Jer. x. 16.

Ibid.---to elders---] Twenty three MSS. and three Editions read with the Masora **זקני**.

17. While yet we existed] The prophet, after having digressed in the five last verses to make observation on the wickedness of those who had been the principal cause of the national ruin, here returns again to his lamentable description of the particulars.---**עורר** cannot certainly be right. Twenty one MSS. read **עורר** or **עורר**. But the Masoretes read **עורר**, as it is found in three MSS. and one Edition, in the margin of Felix Pratensis's Bible, and among the various readings in the London Polyglott, Vol. vi. Three other MSS. read **עורר**, which is still more probable, as I find no other instance of the following **עור**. But this emendation is not of itself sufficient. For the idiom of the language seems generally at least to require, that the suc-

ceeding member of the sentence after עור should be connected with it by the particle ו, as may be seen in the following instances among many others; 1 Kings i. 14, 22. Esth. vi. 14. Job i. 16, 17, 18. Psal. lxxviii. 30, 31. &c. &c. From hence I am led to conjecture, that the ו in עור is a corruption, not of a single *Vau*, but of two *Vaus*, the latter of which ought to be prefixed to עור, where, by its converse force, it not only clears the passage from all difficulty, but brings the text into a perfect agreement with the LXX. Syr. and Vulgate versions.

18.—our steps—] The LXX. instead of עַדְיָנוּ seem to have read צַעֲרֵינוּ, “our little ones.”—But the present text seems unexceptionable. It is probable that the engines of war are here alluded to, which being played off from the enemies mounts, that overlooked the city, made it unsafe for the citizens to pass along the streets. See Jer. xxxii. 24.—For קצנו a number of MSS. in both instances read קצינו. But the present text is preferable.

19. Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles—] Compare Deut. xxviii. 49. Jer. iv. 13.

Ibid.—they chased us—] Fifty two MSS. and one Edition read וְקָדְמוּ.

20. The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of JEHOVAH] Zedekiah's fate is, no doubt, here alluded to, upon whose being taken prisoner, all the hopes, which the people had entertained of living safe under his protection, fell of course to the ground. To *live among the nations* probably means to exist in a national capacity, or as one among them.

21. Rejoice and be glad—] An ironical mode of address, like that, Eccles. xi. 9. The Edomites, we find, had with a malicious joy exulted over the ruin of their brethren the Jews, see Psal. cxxxvii. 7. Obad. 10,—12. Their turn of suffering the like calamities is foretold, see note on Jer. xlix. 7.

Ibid.—the cup—] See note on Jer. xxv. 15. By *intoxication* is probably meant that judicial infatuation of mind, which leads men to commit such extravagant and indiscreet actions, as unavoidably expose them to ruin. *Quos Deus vult perdere, dementat prius.*

22. Thy punishment is at an end—] That עין signifies *punishment* or *suffering for sin*, see ver. 6. Ch. v. 7. and note on Jer. li. 6. The sense of this line is manifest; the daughter of Sion is comforted with an assurance, that she had already undergone her whole punishment, and consequently had nothing more to apprehend. This will therefore tend to explain the following line, where an opposition is clearly intended. To תָּמָּה עֵינֶךָ “thy punishment is completed,” or “ended,” is opposed עֹנֶה עֹנֶה, “thy punishment visiteth,” or, is coming upon thee; and as it follows in the first line, לֹא יוֹסִיף, “it” (or “he,” meaning God) “shall not cause thee any more to go into captivity;” so גִּלְגָּל in the second line must also be understood of “going into captivity,” that being the allotted punishment in one case, as well as in the other.

CHAP. V.

In the Syriac, Vulgate, and Arabic versions, this Chapter is entitled, **THE PRAYER OF JEREMIAH**. But no such Title appears in the Hebrew copies, or in the LXX. It is rather a memorial, representing, in the name of the whole body of Jewish exiles, the many and grievous hardships they groaned under, and humbly intreating God to commiserate their wretchedness, and to restore them once more to his favour, and to their ancient prosperity. The whole may be considered as an epilogue, or conclusion, well adapted to the contents of the preceding Chapters.

1.---Look down---] Forty one MSS. and four Editions read with the Masora, **חֲבִיטָה**, with the **ח** paragoric.

3.---and without father---] Twenty three MSS. and four Editions read with the Masora **וְאִין**, and four MSS. have the rasure of a letter before **וְאִין**.

5. With the yoke of our necks are we continually burthened.---] Thirty five MSS. and two editions read **צוּמְרֵינוּ**, "our necks," instead of **צוּמְרֵנוּ**. Symmachus renders **עַל**, "a yoke," **ζυγος**. **רָדָה** signifies to follow or accompany a person wherever he goes. So Deut. xxviii. 22, 45. the plagues and curses sent by God, it is said, should pursue, or continually attend upon, the disobedient to their utter ruin.

Ibid.---and no rest---] Thirty seven MSS. and four editions, with the Masora, read **וְלֵיל**.

6. O Egypt, we have submitted ourselves] Our Translators have rendered, "We have given the hand to the Egyptians, and to the Assyrians." But there is no preposition prefixed to **מִצְרַיִם**, or **אַשּׁוּר**, as there ought to be, in order to justify such a translation. But the proper translation I conceive to be as I have represented; the people having complained in the last verse of the hardships imposed on them, here by an apostrophe to Egypt, and to Assyria, set forth the grounds of their submission. They did it, they said, merely because they saw no other way of getting the means of subsistence.

7.---but they are no more] Twenty six, perhaps twenty seven, MSS. and four Editions, with the Masora, read **וְאִין**. So also the LXX. Ald. and Complut. the Syr. Chald. Vulg. and Arab.

Ibid. And we have undergone the punishment, &c.] This is said in conformity with 2 Kings xxi. 11,—16. xxiii. 26, 27. xxiv. 3.—Twenty three MSS. three editions, and the Masora, read **וְאִין**. So likewise the Syr. Chald. Vulg. and Arab. express the conjunction.

8. Servants have had dominion] This perhaps alludes to the power exercised by Nebuzaradan.

9. At the hazard of our lives, &c.] I can no otherwise understand this, than that on account of their weak and defenceless state the people were continually exposed, whilst they followed their necessary business, to the incursions of the Arabian freebooters, who might not im-

properly be styled, "the sword of the wilderness," see Harmer's Observ. Ch. ii. Obs. 5 and 6.

10. Our skins—] For עורינו twenty three MSS. and one edition read עורינו.

Ibid.—the stormy blasts of hunger] To investigate the precise signification of זלַעֲפֹת by etymology is what I shall not pretend to. Both in this place and Psal. xi. 9. the ancient interpreters give it the sense of *storms* and *tempests*. In the latter of these passages it seems not improbable, that by זלַעֲפֹת רוח the hot scorching wind may be alluded to, which produces such fatal effects in the desert. See note on Jer. iv. 11, 12. In the margin of our Bibles it is accordingly translated, "a burning tempest." In this place the violent operations of hunger may be called its "stormy blasts," from the effects thereby produced, in emaciating the body, and drying the skin, as if the blasts of a hot wind had passed over it. The word occurs but once more, and that in the singular number, זלַעֲפֹת, Psal. cxix. 53. It is there generally understood, as if the Psalmist had represented himself seized with horror, grief, or some other affection of mind, on account of the wicked that forsook God's law. But I submit, whether זלַעֲפֹת may not here be construed a *storm* or *blast* of persecution, which he had experienced from those wicked persons; in defiance of which, he says in the following verse, that he did not cease to make God's statutes his songs, that is, to celebrate the benefits resulting from an observance of them, amidst all the terrors that surrounded him; בבֵּית מִגֻּרֵי, "in the house of my terrors." This perfectly agrees with the tenor of the context, and especially of the two preceding verses;

51. The proud have mocked me exceedingly,
I have not declined from thy law :

52. I called to mind thy judgments of old,
O JEHOVAH, and comforted myself.

53. A stormy blast hath laid hold on me
From the wicked who forsake thy law :

54. Thy statutes have been my songs
In the house of my terrors.

11. Virgins—] Fourteen MSS. and one edition for בָּתִּילֹת read בָּתוּלוֹת; twenty, perhaps twenty two, MSS. בָּתוּלוֹת, and five MSS. בָּתִּילֹת.

13.—were made to grind—] Literally, "bore grinding," as a hardship or task imposed on them.

14. Elders have ceased from the gate] That is, they no longer sit there to administer justice.

15.—of our heart—] Ten MSS. read לִבֵּנוּ, "of our hearts;" but all the ancient versions express the singular number.

19. But thou—] The LXX. Syr. Vulg. and Arabic all express the conjunction at the beginning of this verse. Two MSS. read וְאַתָּה, and so it is found in the Notes of the celebrated printed Bible, No. 300.

21.---so shall we return---] For נשוב thirty seven, perhaps forty three, MSS. and four editions, read with the Masora, נשובר.

22. For surely---] Six MSS. omit וכן. י ought certainly to be rendered as causal; God's having rejected his people, and expressed great indignation against them, being the cause and ground of the preceding application, in which they pray to be restored to his favour, and the enjoyment of their ancient privileges.

APPENDIX.

OBSERVATIONS and NOTES of the late learned THOMAS SECKER, D. D. Archbishop of Canterbury, written by him in two Bibles, now deposited in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth; one of which is a Folio English Bible interleaved, containing Observations in English, chiefly respecting the English Translation: the other is a Quarto Hebrew Bible of the Edition of Michaelis, Halle 1720, the margin of which abounds with Critical remarks in Latin on the Hebrew Text, and other curious annotations.

N. B. The parts inclosed between crotchets [] are the Author's additional Remarks, distinguished by the initials of his name, B. B.

CHAP. I.

11.—a rod of an almond tree] -Prima omnium floret amygdala. Plin. l. xvi. c. 42.

CHAP. II.

7. חִכְרָמָל—Recte se habet, Alioqui legi posset כִּרְכַּם, cum sequatur ל. Confer Num. xvi. 14.

10. Chittim—Kedar] West—East.

12. חִרְבוּ, Syr. Videtur legisse חִרְבוּ, nec male. [The LXX. render, καὶ φησὶν οἱ πλεονοφῶντες. They therefore must have read חִרְבוּ; and, I think, rightly. חִרְבוּ signifies to do a thing much or often. And as קְרָאוּ מְלֵאוּ Ch. iv. 5. signifies, "Proclaim fully;" וְשַׁעֲרוּ חִרְבוּ מְאֹד so, if taken together, will exactly correspond with the Greek. But if construed imperatively, the verse may be thus divided and rendered—

Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this,
And shudder very exceedingly, saith JEHOVAH.

The preter tense would have been וְשַׁעֲרוּ, because of the ו conversive. B. B.]

16. יִרְעוּךָ קִדְקִד Recte se habet vulgata lectio. Confer Deut. xxxiii. 20.

Ibid.—have broken]. When did the Egyptians this? Their victory over Josiah was long after. Perhaps it should be, *shall break*.

19. תִּכְבֹּחַךְ Potest punctari תִּכְבִּיחֶךָ, ut sit Enallage numeri; vel potest esse 3 pl. foem. irreg. ut תִּכְבֹּחוּ, Cap. xlix. 11. Vide et Buxtorf. Thes. i. 13, 31. [But there is no irregularity at all, if רַעְתָּךְ be the subject of תִּכְבֹּחַךְ. B. B.]

22. [נכתם] Eandem vocem retinet Syr. quæ notat *maculas* vel *cicatrices imprimere*. Vide Deut. xxxii. 34. Job xiv. 17.

31. [ירדנו] Recessimus, Vulg. Migravimus, Chald. Descendimus, Syr. quasi legissent ירדנו, scil. a monte Domini, cui tergum obverterant; ver. 27. Præcedit י. Forte, Regnamus, felices sumus absque te. Confer 1 Cor. iv. 8. Psal. xii. 4.

33. [חרעות] Forte legendum חרעות, vicinas, scil. gentes. [But in this sense I think it would have been רעותך. B. B.]

CHAP. III.

1. [לאמור] Forte deest introductio solennis.

5. [נתחבל]—and hast prevailed.

15. [דעת וחשיל] Non scientia, sed scienter pascent. Confer Cap. x. 21. Isak. lvi. 11.

16. God directs the Jews, Isa. xliii. 18, 19. not to remember the former things, when he was going to do a greater new thing. And, lxxv. 17. says, he creates a new heaven and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. The same words as here. And, Jer. xxiii. 7. says, They shall say no more, The Lord liveth, &c. So that this is a smaller blessing effaced by a greater. It doth not appear what the last words, ולא יעשו עוד, mean; יעשו signifies, "it shall be offered," Num. xxviii. 15, 24. but with a noun preceding. And it is no where put thus absolutely, without any thing determinate to refer to. R. Isaac understands it, that the Gentiles should not dare to come near the temple where JEHOVAH was, but only to Jerusalem; p. 227, &c. Chald. translates the two last clauses, "they shall not be moved, nor make war ביה (I suppose, for it, i. e. the ark) any more." לעשות חשבון is to *celebrate the sabbath*, Exod. xxxi. 16;—I doubt whether יפקדו can signify merely *going to see*; perhaps *recensebunt*, reckon it up among the things belonging to the house of God.—But however this be, forgetting the ark of the covenant seems to refer to the making of the new covenant, Ch. xxxi. 31. different from that at coming out of Egypt. Some may think that this was to comfort the Jews for not having the ark after the captivity. It may seem from ver. 12. to relate to Israel in opposition to Judah. But ver. 18. it is said, They shall return together. It is commonly understood of a yet future return.

17. [לשם] Compare Ezek. xxxvi. 22. "I do not this for your sakes, but לשם קדשי." Compare also Matt. xviii. 20. *ἐπεμύνην ὑμῶν ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι*.

19. Or, the heritage of the glory of the hosts of nations, i. e. the Lord of hosts. LXX. see Lowth. [צבא צבאות] may perhaps be a repetition of the same substantive in the genitive plural, in which case it forms a superlative according to the Hebrew idiom. See Buxtorf. Thes. l. ii. Cap. 3. The heritage of the glory of glories of nations, is the inheritance of that which is held most glorious by nations. B. B.]

23. מִגְבֵּעוֹרֵי] *α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω*. LXX. Vulg. Syr. Unde expeditur sententia—"The hills, the multitude of mountains are a lie."

CHAP. IV.

5. מִלֵּא] Forte, Confirmate. Confer 1 Reg. i. 14. Forte, cum sequatur ו, legendum מִלֵּא. Confer Cap. xii. 6.

6.---retire] hasten. Compare Ch. vi. 1. Exod. ix. 19. Isai. x. 31.

10. Surely thou hast greatly deceived, &c.] אִכַּן is never used interrogatively. דַּשְׁמַר דַּשְׁמַר must therefore mean, "thou hast permitted to be deceived." But then לֵאמֹר must not mean, as it most naturally should, by God's saying; but by the false prophets saying; who yet are not mentioned here. Chald. expresses them. Syr. puts it, "I have deceived this people, and have said." But this changes the reading. And Jeremiah could not have said it; nor could he well have believed, nor doth he say here that he believed, others who had said it. He must surely know the contrary from Isaiah. He complains of the false prophets, Ch. v. 12. &c. and charges one with being such, Ch. xxviii. 15. yet pleads what they had prophesied, Ch. xiv. 13. as if he had some belief of it. There God sets him right, but not here.

[The difficulties above stated may, I think, admit of the following solution. If we examine the force of אִכַּן, we shall find that it does not positively affirm, but as it were draws an inference from appearances. Thus Gen. xxviii. 16. when Jacob awaked from his heavenly vision, he infers, אִכַּן, "Surely the Lord is in this place." Again, Exod. ii. 14. Moses, on the Israelite's reproaching him with having killed the Egyptian, infers that the matter was become public; "Surely this thing is known." And so Agag, when brought to Samuel, says, "Surely the bitterness of death is past," 1 Sam. xv. 32. In like manner Jeremiah does not charge God absolutely, but states from appearances, that God's promise was not likely to be fulfilled; hoping, no doubt, that God would set him right. This is accordingly done in the answer, in which God does not deny the promise, whensoever made; but plainly intimates, what he elsewhere expressly declares, Ch. xviii. 9, 10. that all such promises on his part are only conditionally to be performed. For he still insists, that instead of peace he should visit his people with very sore calamities; but that it was their own wickedness that would occasion their sufferings; since he was ready to deal otherwise by them, if their behaviour would admit of it. Compare especially ver. 14, 18. B. B.]

12. מִלֵּא] Omittunt LXX.; et potuit oriri ex voce præcedente. Paraphrastice Chald. Legendum putat Lud. Cap. מִלֵּא, *maledictione*. Sed non construitur (ni fallor) מִלֵּא cum ו, nisi ut notetur locus unde aliquid impletur; ut Isa. ii. 6.

Ibid. לִי] to me, or, for me---at my command---Or לִי may be pleonastical, as Ch. v. 5.

16. דַּנִּיחַ] Sic Versiones. Forte tamen legedum דַּנִּיחַ; nisi alibi דַּנִּיחַ cum imperativo jungatur.

Ibid.—Or, Publish it : Watchers come against Jerusalem.

22. לָמַדְתִּי] *ei legimus*, LXX. Legerunt לָמַדְתִּי, ut Ezech. xvii. 13.

26. נִחְצוּ] *περιπυρραμένοι*, LXX. In fine addunt *φαναθίσκων*, et sequens כִּי omittunt ; pro quo forte legerunt כִּלָּי. Confer Job iv. 9.

CHAP. V.

12. לָמַדְתִּי חוֹן] *Οὐκ ἔστι (forte ἔστι) ταυτα*. LXX. Vel legerunt לָמַדְתִּי, *erit*, quæ vox extat Eccles. xi. 3. Vel intellexerunt לָמַדְתִּי idem esse quod Chald. חוֹן. Recte, ni fallor.

[It seems to me, that לָמַדְתִּי is used to denote a person or being answering to a certain particular character or description, *ε αὐτος*. Sometimes the character is expressed in words that immediately follow, as 2 Sam. vii. 28. אַתָּה הוּא דָּוִד אֱלֹהִים, "Thou art HE, the God." And Neh. ix. 7. "Thou art HE, O JEHOVAH, the God, who didst choose," &c. So also I think we should render Isa. lii. 6. thus,

Therefore my people shall know my name,

Therefore in that day [they shall know] that I am HE that said, Behold me !

i. e. that I am HE that manifested myself unto them, viz. in time past. Compare Isa. lxxv. 1.

But in other cases the character is to be collected from the general tenor of the context, as Ch. xiv. 22. Deut. xxxii. 39. Isa. xli. 4. xliii. 10, 13. xlii. 4. xlviii. 12, &c. Accordingly here we might render according to the general form, "And have said, He is not HE;" but rather, to avoid the seeming identity of the proposition, "He is no such Being; for it does not appear that they meant to deny the absolute existence of God, but his existing under the particular character of one that would punish them severely for their wickedness. B. B.]

31. עָלֵינוּ] *עלֵינוּ* Prov xiii. 11. seems to signify "by the hand," by the means of labour; which agrees well with the English translation here. Schultens on Job i. 14. interprets *עָלֵינוּ* "after their usual manner;" and confirms that sense by this place, and Ezra iii. 10. 2 Chron. xxix. 27. where *עָלֵינוּ* seems to mean, *after the manner of*. Mudge in Heath on Job interprets *עָלֵינוּ*, "by the direction;" and consequently *עָלֵינוּ* "according to their own direction or pleasure." [Rather, "the priests have gone down according to their direction," i. e. the direction of the prophets; or followed their lead. Compare the Note on Ch. xxxiii. 13. B. B.]

Ibid. מִדְּבַר כֵּן—] Eadem phrasis occurrit, Amos iv. 5. Confer et hic Cap. xiv. 10.

CHAP. VI.

1---gather yourselves to flee]---hasten. See Ch. iv. 6.

2. נִמְרוֹת sunt *pascua*. Si נִמְרוֹת idem notat, repetendo præcedentem

ל, potest legi חמעננה לחנוה, pascuo amæno. Vide ver. 3. [נוח undoubtedly signifies a sheep-cote or fold; Ch. xxiii. 3. Isa. lxxv. 10. Ezek. xxxiv. 14. and from the Syr. seems probable that for חנוה we should read לחנוה. If then we can suppose the two first letters of חמעננה to be a mistaken repetition of the two preceding ones, and read לחנוה חמעננה, the sense will be such as from the context might be expected——

Unto a pleasant sheepfold have I likened the daughter of Sion. B. B.]

3.—[רעו איש את-ידו] “they shall eat up each his part.”

15. [חובישו] Nulla interrogationis nota apud LXX. Syr. Chald. Vulg. Deest aliquando ח. Vide Nold. Alioqui חובישו legi poterat. Sed legitur ut hic, Cap. viii. 12.

25. [כי חרב לאיב מגור מסביב] Perhaps, “For the sword of the enemy is a terror on every side.”

29. [ורעים לא נחקו] Malitiæ enim eorum non sunt consumptæ. Vulg. Legerunt נחקו. Recte. Vide Ezech. xxi. 20—22. [But the sense of נחק in Ezekiel is totally different from that here. There the wicked were to be *melted away* or *dissolved* in the fire of God’s wrath; but here the refiner, after exerting his utmost skill, cannot effect his design, which was to *separate* or *pluck away* the bad from the good. B. B.]

CHAP. VII.

4. [חומות] these, viz. buildings, οικοδομια, used of the temple, Matt. xxiv. 1. Mark xiii. 1, 2. Perhaps three parts of the temple——Syr. translates the last clause, “Ye are the temple of God, if ye, &c.” ver. 5. St Paul often calls Christians the temple of God. And R. Alschek on Hag. ii. 5. in L’Empereur on Daniel, p. 188. makes God call the Jews so. But I see no authority in the Old Testament for it. Else the third repetition here might be taken for God’s words, “the people are my temple; and if they keep themselves undefiled, they shall stand.”

18. [למלכת השמים] to the queen of heaven. English Version. Some think the Sun so called; for חומה, one of his names, is feminine: and שמש sometimes; though oftener masc. As ירח, the common name of the moon, is masc. and לבנה, the other, femin. And in the old northern languages, the sun is constantly femin. and the moon masc.—Some take it for the moon; which Greek Authors say the Easterns called *Αελτις* and *Αελτης*. Others take מלכת for מלאת, as Syr. and understand it of the host of heaven; as the LXX. do here, putting *στῆλαι*, but *Αστροισιν* Jer. xlv.—In both places Chald. expresses the stars, which seem to agree best with Ch. xix. 13.—Perhaps, the frame of nature.

25. Join the first part of this verse with ver. 24. then render, “And I have sent unto you, &c.——

CHAP. VIII.

6. [במדצותם] *αὐτοὶ ἔρχονται ἐξ ἐξοχῆς*. LXX.——Forte legerunt, שׁוֹבֵי מְרִצּוֹתָם.

18. Kalinsky on Nahum and Habakkuk thinks the Lamentation of Jeremiah for Josiah begins here, and ends with the next Chapter. *Acta Erudit.* 1749. p. 467.

19. [מֵאֶרֶץ מְרוֹחִיקָם] from a far country.

CHAP. IX.

5. 6. [חֲעֹרֹר נִלְאָו : שְׁבַתָּךְ] *καταπραΰναι, καὶ οὐ δυνάσκειται περιστῆσαι. ταπεινῶν* —LXX. Forte legerunt, חֲעֹרֹר וְלֹא לִנְלָו שׁוֹב : תָּךְ [From the Greek it seems probable, that the true reading may have been וְלֹא נִלְאָו ; the negative וְלֹא having been lost through the similarity of the three first letters of נִלְאָו. Thus the sense and metre will be equally restored, and we may render, “They have practised iniquity, and not been weary.” B. B.]

8. [דָּבַר בְּפִי] Forte, דָּבַר פִּי.

Ibid. [יָשִׁים אֶרְבּוֹ] *καταπραΰναι*. LXX. Forte legerunt אֵיבֹה.

19. [חֲשַׁלְּנוּ] Either, Our dwellings are cast down ; Or, they have cast down our dwellings.

[24. I am inclined to think this verse may better be translated thus——

But let him that glorieth glory in this,
In understanding and knowing me, that I am JEHOVAH ;
In’ practising benevolence, judgment, and righteousness upon
earth ;

For in these things do I delight, saith JEHOVAH.

Compare Micah vi. 8. B. B.]

25. [מֹל בְּעִרְלֹו] *περὶ περιτομῆς ἀπεργασίας αὐτοῦ* LXX. qui circumcismus (forte, circumcismus qui) habet præputium. Vulg. בְּעִרְלֹוּתָא גֹוֹר, circumcismus in, vel cum, &c. Syr. Nusquam alibi cum ב con- struitur מֹל. *Απεργασίας* pro incircumcisis apud Paulum sæpius. [Qu. Whether instead of בְּעִרְלֹו it might not have been כְּעִרְלֹו ; and then we might render, “I will punish the circumcised in like manner, or, as well, as the uncircumcised. B. B.]

[26. In one MS. we find עַל before כָּל דְּחַגֵּיכֶם. There it is certainly misplaced. But perhaps וְעַל ought to have come in before דְּחַגֵּיכֶם. See note on the place, p. 273. B. B.]

CHAP. X.

[6. Perhaps the former part of this verse should be connected with the preceding verse thus——

pastoribus. non est pronomen, sed nota numeri pluralis. Vide Buxtorf. Thes. Lib. i. c. 9. [Perhaps דורעים ought here to be rendered *Pastors*, or *Shepherds*, and the verse to be translated thus—

Thus saith JEHOVAH;
With respect to all my neighbours,
The pastors who molest the inheritance,
Which I have caused my people Israel to inherit—

Compare ver. 10. B. B.]

CHAP. XIII.

[9. דרב] Perhaps this should have been דרבדו, the gerund of דרב in Hiphil, signifying to do a thing much. See Note on Ch. ii. 12. p. 479. Also Ps. li. 4. ד follows immediately. B. B.]

18. מראשותיכם] “from your heads.” Multæ voces habent duplicem terminationem pluralem. Buxtorf. Thes. l. i. c. 10. in fine.

26, 27.]—“appear, thine adulteries and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom. I have seen thine abominations on the hills in the fields.” So the old versions.

27. לא-תטחרי אחרי מתי ער] Puto legendum אחרי, et ejusmodi phrasin esse, cujus est אחרי, Num. xiv. 24. et alibi.

CHAP. XIV.

9. נדרים נדרים, LXX. alibi semel sic reddunt; נדרים נדרים semel; et חלום חלום sæpe.

10. כן ארצו] “This they love (see Ch. v. 31. Amos iv. 5.) they restrain not their feet from wandering.”

14. וקסם ואיל] Videtur vel prima vox mendosa esse, vel aliquid deesse. [It appears to me that דזון שקר signifies an imaginary vision or revelation, which was not real; קסם something supposed to be discovered by the art of divination; אילול or איל, the oracular response of an idol; but לבם תרמות, the fraudulent suggestion of a man's own heart, which he knew to be false, but uttered with an intent to deceive. B. B.]

CHAP. XV.

8. The nation in general is called the mother of each Jew in particular; Isa. l. 1. Hos. ii. 2---5. or, as Lowth thinks, Jerusalem.

15. לאל לארץ אפך רזקחני] Forte delendum לא; sequitur לא.

18. מאין ארעם] מאנר דרעם; LXX. Legerunt מאין ארעם.

Ibid. אכזר אכזר] Forte legendum אכזר. Confer Cap. xix. 14. Sed commode se habet lectio recepta.

19. “If thou wilt return,” i. e. to tell the Jews what I bid thee, “I

will bring thee back," i. e. safe from them ; " and if thou separate the precious," i. e. my word, " from the vile," i. e. the reproaches of the people, " thou shalt be my prophet, and they shall follow thee to seek my word." Cler.——Or, if thou distinguish good persons from bad, and make them distinguish themselves.

CHAP. XVI.

5. [For לטמור nineteen MSS. and three Editions read לטמך, which might be the participle present, " to him that lamenteth ;" and if מרזח be rendered, " the house of him that uttereth a mournful cry," these two participles will point out the antecedents, to which לרחם, which presently follows, refers. B. B.]

7. יפרסו לחם Recte videntur LXX. legisse לחם ; sic enim Isa. lviii. 7. nec alibi de pane frangendo usurpatur פרס.

Ibid. על-אבלי lugenti, Vulg. Recte.

CHAP. XVII.

4. ויבא, ויך, לבהך legisse Videntur Gr. Vulg. ושמטחה ובך interpretantur LXX. τασαχου.

9. עקב LXX. reddunt βαδνα.

Ibid. מנוש signifies *man*, or *sick*, and perhaps *incurable*, or *desperate* ; but, I believe, never *desperately wicked*. Perhaps, *to be despaired of*.

11. קרנ Bird Kore.

13. יסורי Desinit quandoque plur. in י. Vide Buxtorf. Thes. l. i. c. 9. [Perhaps rather an omission of the ו by a licence of the Transcriber. See Kennicott Diss. Gen. § 25. B. B.]

19. בני עס Memoratur Cap. xx. 2. porta בנימן : et rex ibi sedebat, Cap. xxxviii. 7.

CHAP. XVIII.

4. Abundant hæc verba בחמר ביד חיוצר, vel בחמר, et forte irrepserunt ex ver. 6.

14. זר עז et זר et עז [זרים קרים נוזלים] βιασας αμαρ φεγουσιν. LXX. alibi reddunt βιασας. Pro קרים videntur legisse קרים. Vide ver. 17.

15. ויכשלו " And they have caused them to stumble, &c." This is from the Chaldee. Rather, " They have stumbled in their ways, the ancient roads, to walk in bypaths ;" or, " that they should walk--"

21. ויחגרום על יד " deliver them into the hand"---See the old Versions.

CHAP. XIX.

2. [חזקמות] Perhaps there is an allusion to *שורש*, *earthen*, ver. 1.
 3. [מלכי] Plur. Sic Versiones. Sed potuit oriri ex sequenti.
 4. Rather distinguish thus—"unto other gods whom they have not known; they, and their fathers, and the kings of Judah," i. e. have forsaken me.
 7. [ויבקתי] Perhaps an allusion to *בקק*, ver. 1.

CHAP. XX.

8. [מדי אדבר] *πικρὰ λέγω με*. LXX. Forte legerunt, *מר דברי*. [Perhaps the true reading may have been, *מדי דברי*, "with all the power of my words," or, in the strongest terms. The passage then may be thus translated—

I am become a laughing stock every day,
 Ridicule is perfected in me,
 When I urge in the strongest terms,
 I proclaim violence and devastation;
 For the word of JEHOVAH is turned against me
 Into matter of reproach and derision continually.

The prophet hereby means to say, that he was sure to be treated with the highest degree of ridicule, whenever he proceeded to enforce his commission with earnestness, which was that of proclaiming the approaching evils, violence and devastation; for though what he said was no other than the word of JEHOVAH, which ought naturally to have procured him respect; it had a quite contrary effect, and exposed him to perpetual obloquy and derision. B. B.]

10. [שמרי צלעי] Or "the guards of my side."
 11. [אחתי] *אחי*, Codex unus Kennicott. p. 512. [Eighteen MSS. and four Editions read *אחי*. B. B.]
 17.—[אשר לא מותתני—ותחי] "Because he did not slay me—and my mother become my grave."

CHAP. XXII.

14. Putarem hic legendum *ספון*, ut sit infinitivus.
 15. [כי אחז מתחרו באז] According to the reading of the LXX. the translation should be, "because thou contendest with Ahaz," i. e. which shall be worst. Grot.
 23. [נחנתי] Hic tantum extat in Niphal.—"How wilt thou groan?" [Does not this suppose the reading to have been *אנחתי*? B. B.]
 28. See a great character of Jeconiah, and the esteem in which the Jews held him to that day, in Josephus. Ant. Lib. x. Cap. 7. Edit. Hudson.

CHAP. XXIII.

10. [אלה] "these."
 14. [שוב] Videtur legendum שוב. Sed confer Cap. xxvii. 18. Ezek. xiii. 3.
 19. [חמור יצא] "fury goeth forth."——חול——"shall rest."
 20. Videtur vel בזה vel בינה expungendum.
 26. [עד מתי] "How long shall it be?" See Ps. vi. 4.
 — [חיש בלב] "Is it in the heart of," &c.
 27. [חושבים] "Do they think," &c.
 33. [את מה משא] ἄρας ἐστὶ τὸ λαμβαν. LXX. Vulg. Legerunt, אתה. קמשא. Omnino recte. Vide Isa. i. 14. Amos ii. 13. Deut. i. 12. Jer. xlv. 22. Sic olim divisit has voces Meibomius, teste Kenicotto, p. 518.
 39. [ונשיתי ארצם נשא] λαμβάνω ὑμᾶς λαμβάνω. LXX. Tollam vos portans, Vulg. Syr. Rectissime. Nam imitatur נשא aliquando formam ר.

CHAP. XXV.

15. This must be either a vision, or perhaps only a course of figurative expression, signifying that Jeremiah was to foretel, and did accordingly foretel, that these nations should drink of the cup of God's anger, just as he is said Ch. i. 10. to be set over nations, to root out, &c. when the meaning was only to foretel that they should be rooted out.
 18. [מלכים] That is, successive kings.
 Ibid. [כיום חזק] This must have been written in, and not before, the captivity.
 25. [ומרי] ΣΥΡΟΣ, Ζαμερον—quod et hodie Syr. habet.
 34. [ככלי] ὡς κρηται, LXX. quasi legissent כלי, quod cum sequentibus [nec non et cum præcedentibus, B. B.] optime convenit.

CHAP. XXVI.

2. Forte pro ער legendum שר.
 20. Here I suppose the prophet speaks again.

CHAP. XXXV.

2. The Rechabites descended from the Kenites, who inhabited the same country that the Nabathæans did afterward, of whom Diodor. Siculus (lib. xix. p. 722. Edit. Rhodoman.) says, Νομος δ' ἐστὶν αὐτοῖς, μητε σιτον σπικρην, μητε φυτικὴν μηδὲν φυτὸν καρποφόρον, μητε οἶνον χρῆσθαι, μητε οἰκίαν παρασκευάζειν.—χρησται δὲ τῷ νόμῳ τούτῳ, διαλαμβάνοντες τὰς

ταυτα πτωχους αναγκάζουσαι εαδως υπο των δυνατων ουκ εστις ταυτα χρειαζειν το προβατμινον. Ammian. Marcellin. says much the same things of the Saracens, excepting their not building houses.

6. [Mr Harmer from some circumstances which he relates concerning the Bedouins of Egypt conjectures, that some misunderstandings had arisen between the Rechabites and the children of Israel, on account of the former having taken upon them to sow lands in the country of the latter; and that these being chiefly owing to wine, Jonadab, who was then the Sheck, or head of the family, solemnly charged them for the future never to drink wine, which had been the immediate cause of the feud, nor to attempt to sow any lands, which had been the remote cause of it; but to content themselves with feeding their flocks in the common pastures, so as to give no umbrage to the people among whom they dwelt, Ch. ii. Obs. 4. And this conjecture, it must be owned, is much favoured by the motive assigned, ver. 7. "that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers." As if on supposition of a contrary behaviour there was some reason to fear lest they might be driven out of it. B. B.]

7. The noblest of the Arabians dwell always in tents. Pietro dell Valle Lett. 5 Aug. 1625. § 4.

CHAP. XXXVI.

6, The fast, ver. 6. is taken to be that of the tenth of the seventh month, which was yearly; and this to be a second reading, on an occasional fast ten months after; because THE FAST properly denotes the stated fast; and reading in the ears of Judah probably means reading at the feast of Tabernacles, which came five days after the yearly fast, Lev. xxiii. 34. and at which all Judah assembled, which we do not find that they did at the yearly fast. But we find they did at the occasional fast here ver. 9. and therefore that may be meant ver. 6. It is said indeed, that when Jeremiah first bid Baruch read the book, he said he was "shut up:" but at the reading mentioned here, he was at liberty to hide himself, ver. 19, 26. But he might be set at liberty between his directions to Baruch and Baruch's reading to the princes, though it were but a day's distance. And he is not said ver. 5. to be *shut up in prison*, as Ch. xxxiii. 1. xxxix. 15. but only *shut up*, ~~there~~; which word is used Neh. vi. 10. of a person who was not in prison; though it appears not what is directly meant there. And if there were two readings, it seems strange that no effect of the first should be mentioned. Jeremiah might be detained by prudence, or by the king's command, that he did not go to speak in the temple.

17, 18.] Mr Green on Ps. xiii. observes that these words should be placed and pointed thus—How didst thou write all these words? From his mouth? And Baruch answered them, From his mouth. He pronounced all these words unto me, and I wrote, &c. [Qu. Whether בדין may not be a transposition of בידו, "by his direction?" See note on Ch. xxxviii. 10. B. B.]

30. His son Jehoiachin reigned three months. Zedekiah, who succeeded, and reigned eleven years, was Jehoiakim's brother, according to 2 Kings xxiv. 17. and Jer. xxxvii. 1. his son, according to 2 Chron. xxxvi. 10. But LXX. Vulg. Syr. here agree with the book of Kings. Or supposing the latter, he had afterwards none to sit on his throne.

CHAP. XLV.

1. אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה] "These words"—i. e. those in Ch. xxxvi. to which this Chapter belongs. But Grotius observes, that the prophecies which relate to the whole people are placed first, then that which concerns a single person; as in St Paul's Epistles; some of whose Epistles to particular persons were written before some to Churches; and lastly, the prophecies concerning the Gentiles, which follow in Ch. xlv. &c. But possibly the meaning may be, that Jeremiah said this to Baruch on his having written what is contained in Ch. xlv. in the book which he had formerly written from Jeremiah's mouth in the fourth year of Jehoiakim. Only if so, ver. 4. must relate to the affairs of Egypt: as indeed even bad persons are said to be planted by God, Ch. xii. 2. and all kingdoms, Ch. xviii. 9. [This latter supposition cannot possibly be true; for it is evident that the things contained in Ch. xlv. did not happen till after the people were removed into the land of Egypt, and therefore could not have been written in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, as *these things* are expressly said to have been. B. B.]

CHAP. XXIV.

1. מוֹעֲדִים] *καιρους*, LXX. *positi*, Vulg. Syr. Ch. Nescio an *legendum*.

8. כִּי כֹה] *καὶ οὕτως*, LXX. *sic*, Syr. *hæc*, Vulg. *quasi non legissent* כִּי.

CHAP. XXIX.

8. אֲחֻזָּה] *συναζωμεν* LXX. Syr. Vulg. Conjugationem *Hiphil* retinet Chald. quæ hic tantum, et Isai. xxxviii. 16. *reficiendi sensu*, exat in V. T.

11. לְתַתֹּת לָכֶם אַחֲרֵיכֶם וְתִקְוָה] "to give you posterity (Psal. cix. 13.) and hope"

17. חֲשֵׁעִים] + *τα σαρκα*. *Σαρκα δὲ ἵσ' τῇ Εβραϊκῇ φωνῇ τὰ σὺλαι φωνοῦνται*. Theodoret. apud Montfauc. Qu. An שְׂבִיעִים. Vide de hac voce Grab. de vitiis, p. 80. [Might not this bad sort of figs be called חֲשֵׁעִים from being hairy on the outside? B. B.]

26. פָּקִיד בֵּית] *παισων τῶν οἰκων*. LXX. *ut esses præfectus*, &c. Syr. *ut sis constitutus princeps*, &c. Chald. *ut sis dux*, &c. Vulg. Forte, בבֵּית פָּקִיד.

32. יֵשֶׁב] Videtur vox ex literis præced. et sequent. conflata.

CHAP. XXX.

7. [ועתה צרה וזיהא לעקב] "And it is a time of trouble to Jacob."

14. [עונך] Vel excidit כי post ך, vel intelligendum est; vel חמארת חטאת, non peccatum, notat, ut alibi; vix tamen hic; vide enim verum sequentem, ubi extat א, apud Th. Syr.

21. [ערב את לבו] Forte legendum ערך; nam מערכי לב, Prov. xvi. 1.

CHAP. XXXI.

13. [יחורו] "shall be glad"—χαρυνσθαι. LXX. Syr. Saltabant virgines et mulieres, Exod. xv. 20, &c. De viris autem vix invenies, nisi de Amalekitis, 1 Sam. xxx. 16. et de Davide, 2 Sam. vi. 14. Ps. xxx. 11. nedum de senibus; nam Exod. xxxii. 19. Job xxi. 11. Ps. cxlix. 3. cl. 4. an ad viros, an ad foeminas pertineant, incertum. [But I see not why on such an extraordinary occasion even the old men might not be said to forget their age and infirmities, and to join in the dance as well as the young. B. B.]

15. [ברמה] It is observable that Nebuzaradan had the captives at Ramah. Ch. xl. 1.——There is an emphasis in the repetition of the words על-בניו. So Horace, Epist. I. xiv. 7, 8.

Fratrem mærentis, rapto de fratre dolentis
Insolabiliter.

17. [לאחריתך] Perhaps, "to," or, "concerning thy posterity."

34. [כי אסלח] "When," or "that I forgive—and remember—"

CHAP. XXVII.

7. [גם וזיהא] Until the time of his land come, even his; as Prov. xxiii. 15. 1 Kings xxi. 19. Ps. ix. 6. Of the fulfilling of this verse, see Cler. The last was his daughter's son.

CHAP. XXI.

11. [ולבית] "And to the house, &c."

CHAP. XXXIV.

18. [כרתו וגו] Si omittas posteriori loco אשר כרתו, liquida erunt omnia; vel si legas, בעגל.

When they cut the calf—Eng. Bible] Rather literally, "the calf which they cut—" For this, being the sign of the covenant, was called the covenant; as Circumcision was, and as the Cup in the New Testament. On the custom of dividing the calf, see Lowth.

CHAP. XXXII.

7, 8. [משפט may fairly be rendered, as in our English Bible, “the right” of the redemption, and “the right” of the inheritance, *jus redemptionis*, *jus hereditatis*. See Deut. xviii. 3. xxi. 17. Ezek. xxi. 27. B. B.]

CHAP. XXXIII.

3. [לא ידעתם] Whether this means the return of the Jews from the Babylonish captivity, or the times of the Messiah, both had been foretold by Jeremiah as plainly as they are expressed here. Calvin answers, that his faith had been staggered. Perhaps God speaks here, not to the prophet, but to the people, who were backward to know what they might have known; and as some presumed on false predictions in their favour, so some despaired of the true. Ch. xxxii. 36. [Rather perhaps, “which thou didst not, nor couldst know,” but by revelation. B. B.]

4. [חנתצים] Rather, “which are to be thrown down;” as Isa. xxvii. 13. Ps. cxxxvii. 8.—חרב is used for an instrument in destroying walls and forts. See 2 Chon. xxxiv. 6. Ezek. xxvi. 6. [The sword, is commonly used for war, or the operations of war in general. See Note on Ch. i. 38. And it is very probable that some of the houses of Jerusalem had already been cast down by the enemy’s warlike engines playing upon them from the mounts without. B. B.]

[6. ורפאתים] The antecedent of the pronoun must be those whom God says in the preceding verse that he had smitten, or plagued; for it does not imply that they were slain. B. B.]

—[עתירת] Putat Castellio legendum עטירת; aliter frigere et cogi sententiam.

9. [וחיתור] “And IT shall be——unto IT.” Eng. Bible. Rather, And SHE shall be——unto HER. [But וחיתור is here used absolutely, there being no feminine subject to which it can properly be referred. IT therefore signifies the whole matter or proceeding. See Notes on Ch. xlii. 16. lii. 3. And the sense of the passage is probably, that the restoration of God’s people should afford cause to all nations to rejoice in God, and to give praise and glory to him for what he had wrought. Render therefore, “And it shall become to me a name (or, title) of joy, &c.” B. B.]

13. על-י—[See Note on Ch. v. 31. p. 482. B. B.]

16. [לח] Potest pronomen punctis mutatis vel masc. esse vel fœm.

22. [משרתי ארתי] forte delendum ארתי, cum præcedat רתי. Vid. ver. 21.

24. [העם הזה] “This people,” i. e. some of them, Grot. But the distinction between “this people” and “my people” in this verse is remarkable.

Ibid. [מהיור] — “that they are no more, &c.”

26. כִּי אֶשׁוּב — "When I shall, &c."

CHAP. XXXVIII.

[10. בִּדְךָ — "under thy command." *Sub ductu et imperio tuo.* Num. xxxi. 49. *Michaelis.* B. B.]

28. [וְחַיָּה כְּאִשֶּׁר נִלְכְּדָה יְרוּשָׁלַם] Non extant apud LXX. Desunt etiam in Syr. et videntur delenda, utpote a præcedentibus his scriptis orta. [As some MSS. read וִיחַי, if instead of that we suppose the reading to have been וִיחַי, it will afford a good sense, being rendered, "For he was alive when Jerusalem was taken." But supposing the four last verses of Ch. xxxix. to have followed immediately, as I have inserted them, which is clearly their natural order, these words may then have been prefixed to them in the following manner. "And it came to pass about the time that Jerusalem was taken, that the word of JEHOVAH came unto Jeremiah, &c." B. B.]

CHAP. XL.

1.—[חֲדָבַר אֲשֶׁר הִירָא] The word of the Lord is not delivered till Ch. xlii. 7 [All the intermediate part therefore from בְּקִרְבֵּי אֲתוֹ must be considered as related in a long Parenthesis. B. B.]

5. [וְעִירָנוּ לֵאמֹר יָשׁוּב] Vide omnino Prolegomena Grab.—[Perhaps instead of יָשׁוּב we should read יָשָׁב or יֹשֵׁב, and then Nebuzaradan may be supposed to proceed in his speech thus—"And until it (namely, the land, for אֶרֶץ is sometimes masc. as well as femin. see Ch. xxv. 12.) be settled, do thou also return to Gedaliah—and dwell with him in the midst of the people." See Note on Ch. i. 13. This Nebuzaradan advises the prophet to do for his security, in case he chose to continue in the land; but still leaves him at full liberty to go and do as he pleased. B. B.]

CHAP. XLI.

5. It is not said in the preceding history that the house of God was burned, though Ch. xxxix. 8. the burning of the houses is mentioned. But it is said 2 Chron. xxxvi. 19. and it is intimated, Ch. i. 28. li. 11. That it was burned on this occasion is allowed. According to 2 Kings xxv. 8. this happened on the seventh day of the fifth month; but Ch. lii. 12. on the tenth day of the fifth month; which fifth month Jeremiah, Ch. i. 3. mentions as the time of Zedekiah's captivity. Now what is here told happened in or after the seventh month; within which time these persons must have known that the temple was burnt. But they were going to the place where it stood; as the Jews are said, Ezra iii. 8. to come to the house of God at Jerusalem before it was rebuilt; and they set up an altar, and offered sacrifices there, ver. 3, 6. Kimchi and others think that Gedaliah had set up an altar at Mizpah. But were such places called the house of the Lord? And if Jeremiah

had meant thus, would he not have explained himself? — Vignoles indeed, Vol. I. p. 507, &c. seems to prove that the temple was not burned till thirteen months after the city was taken. Yet he alleges not this passage. [Josephus says, the temple was burnt on the first day (ἡ πρώτη ἡμέρα) of the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah's reign. Ant. Lib. x. Cap. 8. Edit. Hudson. B. B.]

7. אל תוך חבור. [The same Ellipsis see 1 Maccab. vii. 19. Ps. lxxiv. 7. lxxxix. 39. Καὶ ἐγερψεν αὐς το φρεν. Cod. Reg. Vide Prolegom. Grab.]

9. ביד גדליהו. [φρεν μνη. LXX. Legerunt בור גדול. Recte, ni fallor. Sequitur חור. [In this case we must translate thus, "Now the pit, into which Ishmael cast all the dead bodies of the men whom he had slain (it was the great pit, which king Asa had made on account of Baasha king of Israel) Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with the slain." The addition of the relative *pleonastice* together with the substantive is a Hebrew idiom not unfrequent. Buxt. Thes. l. ii. c. 8. Or might not the true reading have been בעד גבליהו? B. B.]

CHAP. XLII.

12. ויהשיב. Καὶ ποιήσω ὑμᾶς. LXX. Et habitare faciam. Vulg. Syr. Potest minori mutatione legi ויהשיב, et sinet vos habitare. Confer Cap. xliii. 3. Sed forte ויהשיב idem notat, ut ver. 10. שוב idem quod שבת. Vel אדמה de fundo uniuscujusque intelligendum est; ut Gen. xlvii. 22.

CHAP. XLIII.

10. The Greek writers make no mention of any conquest of Egypt by the Babylonians, but make Aprius (see Ch. xliv. 30.) overcome by Amasis. It is thought the Egyptian priests would not tell them what was not for the honour of their country. The conquest mentioned Ch. xlv. 2. was before this, and under Necho; and for the truth of it, and of further ones made by Nebuchadnezzar in Africa, Grotius on Ch. xlv. 2. refers to 2 Kings xxiii. 29. xxiv. 7. to Strabo, Megasthenes, Josephus, Berosus. The last, he says, affirms that Nabopolassar, father of Nebuchadnezzar, had part of Egypt. The two first, I suppose, only mention the succession of the Kings. See hereafter on Ch. xlv. 30.

12. ויהצית. — καὶ αὐτοὶ, LXX. Syr. Vulg. quasi legissent ויהצית. Recte, ut videtur.

CHAP. XLIV.

1. אל-כל. Sic Versiones. Forte tamen ואל. Sed sic אל-על, Cap. xlv. 1. [Two MSS. read ואל. B. B.]

9. [נשיו] *ש. ריבם*, LXX. quasi legissent *ש. ריבם*. Leviori mutatione legeretur *ש. ריבם*; nam principes sunt et regis et populi.

11. [כל-יהודה] i. e. all the Jews who fled into Egypt, of whom also it is said Ch. xlii. 17. that none should remain: meaning that but a few should; as appears on comparing ver. 14, 28.

12. The words may be rendered thus—"consumed in the land of Egypt: they shall fall by the sword, they shall be consumed by the famine; from the least unto the greatest by sword and famine shall they die."

14. [פליטים] *ἀναστρέψουσιν*, LXX. This word and *ἀναστρέψουσιν* answer often to *פליטים* and *פליטה*. Hence *ἀναστρέψουσιν* in the New Testament.——Translate thus—"And none of the remnant of Judah shall escape or remain, which are come to sojourn here in the land of Egypt, and to return into the land of Judah, on which they set their heart to return to dwell there." For this is the natural construction, and Vulg. Syr. Chald. follow it; and *שם* signifies *here* of necessity both in this place, and Num. xxxii. 26. [I have pretty nearly followed the above translation, on a supposition that all was right in the text. But it ought to be observed, that the LXX. render *על* *ἀναστρέψουσιν* *ἐν* *אֶרֶץ*, as if for *לשוב* they had read *לשוב* without the conjunction; and this is the reading of three MSS. one a pretty ancient one. One ancient MS. omits *שם* after *לגור*, and neither the LXX. nor Vulg. acknowledge it. Also thirteen MSS. read *בְּאֶרֶץ יְהוּדָה*, which all the versions favour. *ב* was probably dropt by means of the same letter preceding in *לשוב*. With these alterations, if allowed, I would propose to render, "And of the remnant of Judah, who are come to sojourn in the land of Egypt, there shall not be an escaper or survivor to return into the land of Judah, where they set their mind upon returning to inhabit; for there shall none return but escapers." By *escapers* it is evident are meant such individuals, as have had the particular good fortune to save themselves by flight from the general destruction. B. B.]

19. [להעצבה] Non extat apud LXX. Syr.—ad colendum eam, Vulg.—idolo, Chald. Recte.

21. [הלא את הקטר] *οὐκ ἐστὶν ἡμεῖς*, LXX. Syr. quasi legissent *אתה*——*הקטרת*, quod et cum verbo sequenti convenit.

30. By the enemies of Pharaoh thus distinguished from Nebuchadnezzar some think Amasis and the rebellious subjects of Apries are meant. Jeremiah might have reasons for not explaining whom he alluded to; or there might be Egyptians in Nebuchadnezzar's army who sought Apries's life, as is hinted Ch. xlvi. 26. But the Egyptian king and his enemy here must surely be the same as Ch. xliii. 9, 10. and therefore must be Apries and Nebuchadnezzar. Indeed if Amasis called in Nebuchadnezzar, *he* may be jointly meant. Josephus says, Nebuchadnezzar killed the king of Egypt after taking Jerusalem, but mentions not Amasis. Herodotus says, Amasis killed him, and men-

tions neither Nebuchadnezzar, nor any foreigner assisting ; nor doth any Greek historian. See a little before on Ch. xliii. 10.

CHAP. XLVI.

1. The difference of style between the following prophecies and the preceding is remarkable.

2. According to Dan. i. 1. Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem, which was after smiting Pharaoh, in the third year of Jehoiakim. But *came* may mean only *went*. Vignoles, Vol. ii. p. 426. thinks he beat Pharaoh after the Chaldeans had taken Jerusalem ; which seems to me improbable. [See note on Ch. xxii. 19. B. B.]

8. מִיָּם] *αὐτῆς*. Cod. Reg. Vide Prolegom. Grab. Sic et Syr. Vulg. Chald. Legerunt מִיָּמֵי, ut yer. 7.---Recte ; præsertim cum sequatur וַיָּ.

9. לְנִזְרִים] These were probably inhabitants of Meroe.

Ibid. תַּפְשֵׁי דְרִכֵּי] Videtur delendum hic תַּפְשֵׁי, cum ante duas voces præcesserit. Confer tamen קָשָׁה רֹמִי קָשָׁה, Ps. lxxviii. 9.

12. קָלֹנֶךָ] *φωτισ*. LXX.—Recte, ut videtur.

15. נִסְחָךְ אֲבִירֶךָ] *φυγεν ο μωσχος ο εκλεκτος σου*. LXX. Computruit fortis tuus ? Vulg. Legerunt אֲבִירֶךָ. Recte. Vide Cap. xxx. 21.

28. How was a full end made of these nations ?—The kingdoms, which then and afterwards led the Jews captive, were destroyed, and the people of those kingdoms mixed so as not to be now distinguished : and their religions are extinct. Judaism hath subsisted ; and doubtless, its professors are generally Jews by descent. Yet they have undergone more and heavier sufferings than any people. As their prophets, beginning with Moses, threaten them heavily, why should they not have threatened them with destruction ; especially as they seemed incurably prone to idolatry ? How could they on the contrary venture to say, as Lev. xxvi. 44. Deut. iv. 31. and here, if not by God's direction, that they should not be destroyed utterly ? Can they mean only that they should return from Babylon ? Their words carry more. The Romans indeed called their city *eternal*. And any writer may flatter the constitution of his country with *perpetuity*. But Moses and the prophet here are not making panegyrics or compliments. And that a thing so unlikely to be said or fulfilled should be *both*, is a strong presumption that it was said by inspiration. Circumcision, early instruction, the prerogatives ascribed to the Jews in S. S. mutual hatred between the nations and them, intermarriages among themselves, the idolatry of other nations, have contributed to preserve them.

CHAP. XLVII.

3. שָׁמַר] Hæc vox hic tantum extat in S. S. Nusquam in linguis cognatis, præterquam in Syriaca, in qua *natare, volare, repere* notat. Affine quoad sonum est נָצַח, *incedere*.

CHAP. XLVIII.

2. [אין עוד רחולת מואב בחשבון] "There is no more the praise of Moab in Heshbon." Or, "The glorying of Moab in Heshbon shall be no more."—Omnes versiones habent בחשבון. Forte tamen ב ex præcedenti ב.

7. [במעשיך] "In thy possessions;" so the word is translated 1 Sam. xxv. 2. It means "fruits of labours," Exod. xxiii. 16.

11. Moab was an ancient nation—The *youth* of the Israelites was when they were in the wilderness. Ch. ii. 2. Isaiah had prophesied much the same things against Moab, as Jeremiah doth here; and they were to be accomplished in three years, Isa. xvi. 14. between which time and this was 130 years. Besides this, Saul, David, and Jehoshaphat had wars with them. But we read not that they were at any time carried captive out of their own land, which is the point insisted on here; and *captivity* is now intimated ver. 12. and expressly mentioned ver. 46, 47.

15. [שרד מואב] Perhaps, "The spoiler of Moab is come up against her cities." [We must then read בעריר for ועריר, of which I see no trace. B. B.]

18. [Perhaps we might divide and render thus—

Because, a spoiler of Moab is gone up,
He hath destroyed in thee thy strong holds. B. B.]

25. *Kisra* and *Zanga* are two cities of Moab in Ptolemy, to which Grotius thinks this verse alludes.

29—33.] Confer cum Isa. xvi. 6—11. ubi eadem fere verba; sed vel apud hunc, vel illum, vel utrumque prophetam, misere depravata.

[34. מועקת] Qu. Whether this word may not be designed for מועקות, and so signify the women crying out in Heshbon? It may be the participle present in *Pihel*, which conjugation denotes action more intense and repeated. B. B.]

[35. מעליו בבמה] Perhaps we should have read מעליו בבמה, "him that sacrificeth upon a high place; the preposition ב being lost in the initial letter of the noun. The LXX. Vulg. and Chald. favour this emendation. B. B.]

39. [איך חתה דלילי] "How is she broken? howl ye." This is literal. But the versions read differently.

42. [מעם] "from being a people;" that is, for a time. See ver. 47.

45. [מכה] Perhaps, "for want of force." See Lowth and Noldius in מ.

47. It appears from Josephus (Ant. Lib. xiii. c. 13. Edit. Hudson) that they did return.

CHAP. XLIX.

1. עמו] *λαος αυτων*. LXX. Pro usurpatur Num. xxii. 5. Nescio an Ammonitæ dicti sunt עם מלכם, ut Moabitæ עם כמוש, Cap. xlviii. 46.

11. עזובה יתמך] Chald. thinks this spoken to the Jews. Some think it ironical, as they think Isa. xvi. 4. The LXX. read very differently. Others make a very harsh Ellipsis, translating וא'ננו ver. 10. "and there is none to say," &c.

19.—21. Eadem, mutatis mutandis, leguntur, Cap. I. 44---46. ubi pro בים סוף legitur בגים. Non extat סוף apud LXX. Et forte primo בגים depravatum in בים, deinde סוף additum.

23. ראוה] præ sollicitudine, Vulg. quasi legissent מראוה. Præcedit ב.

25. איך לא עזבה] "How comes it to pass that it was not left, or spared?"

Ibid. משושי] is properly paragogic here, or a mark of the plural.

CHAP. L.

1---3.] It is not only said here that Babylon should be desolate, but that the people here spoken of should make it so. Now Cyrus strictly did not make it so, as the Jews on their return must know. Therefore they did not understand it strictly. [It is true, Babylon was not totally desolated all at once; but it was in consequence of what the Medes and Persians did to her, in subverting her empire, and removing the seat of government, that in a course of time, בימים הרבה, this prophecy was strictly and literally fulfilled. B. B.]

11. כי רשמוהו] [The verbs in this verse may, and perhaps should be rendered in the present tense---"Because ye rejoice, because ye triumph,---because ye are grown fat---and neigh." B. B.]

26. סלור] never elsewhere signifies to tread. It may mean here, "cast her up" as heaps, in order to tread out the corn.

45. נורה] Sic LXX. Sed videtur legendum נורה cum reliquis versionibus, et cum Cap. xlix. 20. Sequitur מ.

CHAP. LI.

1. לב קמי and ששך are supposed by Jarchius and Kimchi to stand by ATHBASH for כשדים and בבל. [ATHBASH is a disguised manner of writing by a substitution of one letter for another, in a contrary direction of the Alphabet; as ר for א, ש for ב, and so on. By this artifice we shall find ששך will make בבל, and לב קמי will make כשדים. See Grotius. B. B.]

11. מלכי מדי] "kings of Media." Here and at ver. 28. the LXX.

express the singular number, and Syr. is pointed so as to be singular. Chald. hath the same word as Heb. In ver. 28. the particle *his* seems to require the singular. But מלכי is never singular with a genitive after it, unless in מלכי-צדק. But I think there are instances of a paragogic י in that case in other words. Vignoles, Vol. ii. p. 656. thinks the plural may be put for the singular, as in other words of dominion; or that Cyrus and Astyages may be meant. Tomyris in Herodotus calls Cyrus king of the Medes; and Thucydides scarce ever calls the Persians any thing but Medes. [Supposing the kings of Media to mean the Persian monarchs, Cyrus and his successors may here be designed, who were all bent to oppress and humble Babylon. B. B.]

39. יעליו] *καταλυσι*, LXX. sopiantur, Vulg. Putat Grotius hic legisse LXX. Vulg. Chald. יעליו. Confer Isa. li. 20. ubi de Judæis tanquam inebriatis ab ira Dei dicitur, עלפו שכרו. חתעלה *deliquium* notat, Amos viii. 13. Jon. iv. 8. Idemque, ut videtur, עלפו, Ezek. xxxi. 15. nec alibi occurrit hæc radix.

55. Perhaps, "Because JEHOVAH hath spoiled and destroyed Babylon, there is a great voice out of her; and their waves, &c."

56.] Perhaps, For JEHOVAH is a God of recompence, he will surely requite."

58.] יגעו וגו' Extant eadem fere verba, Hab. ii. 13. nisi quod pro יגיב ibi scriptum sit יגעו, et vice versa; et יגעו pro יגיב.

64. יגעו] Nec genere, nec numero, nec sensu, convenit יגעו cum præcedentibus, et videtur post ætatem יגעו LXX. ad oram libri ex fine ver. 58. scriptum, ut adjiceretur sequens notula. [Perhaps we should here read יגעו from יגיב, and connecting it with the following words, render, "And thus far reach the words of Jeremiah." It is possible the Transcriber may have observed both יגעו and יגיב in ver. 58. and thence have been led to write the wrong word. B. B.]

CHAP. LII.

This chapter is not Jeremiah's. For the same history hath been already related by him. And it is marked at the end of the last Chapter, that his words extend only thus far. . And ver. 31. that king of Judah is called Jehoiachin, as in the books of Kings and Chronicles, whom Jeremiah always elsewhere calls Jeconiah, or Coniah.

T H R E N I.

CHAP. III.

14. עמי] Non loquitur propheta, sed Judæus quivis, vel, judice Lowthio, chorus Judæorum, quos non est verisimile derisos fuisse a popularibus suis. 'Legendum igitur עמי, vel intelligendum עמי poni pro עמי, ut Ps. cxliv. 2. Mic. vi. 16. Et sic quidem hic Syr. Nec obstat quod idem filiam populi sui plorat, ver. 48. [But see my opinion of the person that speaks in the introductory Note of this Chapter. B. B.]

CHAP. IV.

20. רוח אמינו] Ille (scil. princeps) est spiritus vitalis, quem hæc tot millia civium trahunt. Seneca. De Clementia, Lib. i. Cap. 4.

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